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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-202
Friday
20 October 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-202

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Foreign Minister Ends Damascus Visit

NC1910141689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Our correspondents in al-Ta'if report that the visit to Syria by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has been brief. The Prince left Damascus immediately after delivering a message from Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz to President Hafiz al-Asad.

According to press reports in al-Ta'if, Prince Sa'ud al-Fayal is expected to confer with East Beirut deputies at any moment.

Well-informed sources have revealed that the exchanges between the Arab tripartite committee and Damascus regarding the observations made by East Beirut deputies began 3 days ago. Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali took part in these exchanges, which were kept secret.

Deputies Outline Stands on Al-Ta'if Meetings

NC1910212889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Deputy Pierre Dakkash has denied that some eastern area deputies have threatened to withdraw from the al-Ta'if meeting. He said: We came to seek solutions to the question of sovereignty and implement everything we agree upon. He added that what is important is that every group should rise above its own interests so that the homeland's interests are served.

Deputy Nasri al-Ma'luf, member of the drafting committee, said that the alternative to not amending the provision on sovereignty and withdrawal is a statement or a declaration to be issued by the higher tripartite committee to supplement the original document which would eliminate any ambiguity and allay any fears. He added: When parties agree on a text, coordination should follow. This is the responsibility of the Lebanese because it is the foundation stone in the rebuilding of the Lebanese state.

Moroccan King Appoints Maghreb Council Members

LD1910181989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco appointed this afternoon at the royal palace in Rabat the Consultative Council of Arab Maghreb countries, which includes 50 members representing Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania.

The Consultative Council is composed of 10 members from each of the Arab Maghreb union member-countries, or in accordance with the internal regulations of each country. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat 'Open Letter' to U.S. Adminstration

JN2010102189 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has sent an open letter to the U.S. Administration via former U.S. presidential candidate Senator George McGovern, whom he met recently in East Berlin.

In its issue published today, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cites informed sources in Washington as reporting that President 'Arafat had said in his letter that he can call for a special UN General Assembly session in Geneva this year so that he can address the session, but he does not want to take such a step so as not to harm relations between the PLO and President Bush's administration.

The sources say that the Palestinian president urged the U.S. Administration to take the initiative and call for an international conference for peace in the Middle East so that all sides concerned can present all their positions and cards in negotiations for peace without preconditions.

He explained that he can face the U.S. veto in the UN Security Council by going to the General Assembly and have it issue a decision calling for the international conference, but he does not plan to do so in order not to push the U.S.-Palestinian ties to the verge of collapse.

'Scenario' for 'Arafat-Baker Meeting Detailed

JN1910195789 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 23

[By 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr from Paris]

[Text] There rests in USSR Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's files an interesting proposal which has so far remained inactive. This proposal provides for Shevardnadze's arrangement of a meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the presence of Shevardnadze himself. This proposal has continued to be the focus of secret consultations between the parties concerned and other international parties.

According to exclusive information obtained by AL-QABAS from high-level West European sources which were a party to the consultations on this proposal, the scenario for the implementation of the proposal contains the following elements:

1. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat shall request a U.S. entry visa to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly in New York. In that speech, 'Arafat will speak about the desire of the Palestinian people and their leadership to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and also about the Palestinian peace strategy. 'Arafat shall submit this application after he obtains guarantees that the U.S. Administration has become ready to grant him an entry visa allowing him to enter U.S. territory.

2. Once 'Arafat obtains the entry visa, Shevardnadze will hold contacts with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and inform him of his desire to arrange a three-way meeting comprising Shevardnadze, Baker, and 'Arafat at the UN Headquarters in New York.
3. Once 'Arafat arrives in the United States, Shevardnadze will head for New York to listen to 'Arafat's UN General Assembly speech.
4. After 'Arafat delivers his speech, the Soviet foreign affairs minister will bring 'Arafat and Baker to one table. The Soviet minister will attend this meeting. Thus, this will be the first official meeting between the PLO chairman and the U.S. secretary of state. The materialization of this meeting will be attributed to Soviet diplomatic efforts.

What is the significance of this proposal? And where does it lie in the U.S.-Soviet dialogue? Does this mean that the USSR Government will put pressure on the U.S. Administration to make it grant 'Arafat a U.S. entry visa later this year?

Before answering these questions, some basic issues concerning the Soviet leadership's policy on the settlement of the Palestine question and on its coordination with the United States must be clarified. The new thing in this regard is that there is a remarkable change in the Soviet stance regarding consultations and coordination with the United States to settle the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This new change has been recently sensed by a number of Palestinian officials and U.S. and West European diplomats who are dealing with the Middle East issues.

The Soviets are not fully satisfied with the dialogue with the Bush administration on efforts to settle the Palestine question. No, they are disappointed with what the U.S. Administration is offering them in this regard. That is why the Soviets have begun to encourage and advise the PLO to harden its conditions for a dialogue with Israeli officials and for the holding of elections in the West Bank and Gaza. This encouragement has not gone as far as to ask the PLO to abandon the Palestinian peace initiative and its plans for peaceful coexistence between the state of Palestine and Israel and for holding direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. AL-QABAS was the first to refer to this in a dispatch from Paris published in the paper's Saturday [14 October] issue.

This issue must be clarified in detail. The Soviet officials are strongly convinced that the Bush administration does not seek to give them a prominent and direct role in the process of settling the Palestine question regardless of the key role the the Soviet leadership played in encouraging the PLO leadership to adopt its peace strategy. In this regard, the Soviet officials took the following steps:

1. The Soviets have urged the PLO leadership to accept all U.S. conditions for opening a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. Most important of these conditions were to recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which means an implicit recognition of Israel, to renounce terrorism, and to affirm determination to solve the dispute peacefully with Israel and through negotiations. Moreover, the Soviets secured political, diplomatic, and moral protection for this leadership against some parties opposing these orientations.

2. The Soviets urged the PLO leadership to continue the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue regardless of the obstacles and problems facing this dialogue. On several occasions they advised the Palestinian leaders to be flexible and realistic with the Americans.

3. The Soviets urged the PLO leadership to promote the dialogue with the Israelis, especially with Israeli officials. They frequently expressed readiness to host Palestinian-Israeli meetings.

4. The Soviet officials urged the PLO leadership not to reject the idea of holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza and not to reject the idea of a phased solution to the Palestine question.

5. The Soviet officials asked the PLO leadership to postpone the declaration of some steps so as not to create obstacles before the peace efforts. Among these steps was to postpone the formation of a Palestinian government-in-exile until a later stage.

6. The Soviet officials went further a few weeks ago to express an understanding during their talks with the Americans of a proposal that Egypt, not the PLO, announce the names of the Palestinian delegation members who are supposed to hold negotiations with an Israeli delegation in Cairo on elections in the West Bank and Gaza as well as on other issues related to the elections and peace process.

The Soviet officials took all these steps out of concern for the dialogue, consultations, and coordination with the U.S. Administration in order to settle the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute. Some senior Palestinian officials do not conceal the fact that some Soviet pieces of advice and stands aroused questions about the seriousness of Moscow's continued support for the PLO and its role in the peace process. Beside these stands and assistance, the Soviet officials hoped that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue on these issues would move from the stage of consultations and coordination to the stage of genuine cooperation and an effective Soviet participation alongside the United States in settling the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

However, the Bush administration has rejected and continues to reject real cooperation or effective Soviet participation in settling the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli dispute. The Soviet officials have felt that the U.S. Administration wants to use Moscow as a tool of pressure to influence the PLO and its orientations as well as other parties in the region. In return for that, the U.S. Administration would be prepared for talks with Moscow to acquaint the Soviets with what is going on. However, the U.S. Administration is not ready to give the Soviets an equal role in the process of solving the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to the information AL-QABAS has received from well-informed U.S. sources, the Bush administration has adopted negative stands on the following issues within the framework of its dialogue with the Soviets:

1. The Bush administration rejected the idea of issuing a joint Soviet-U.S. declaration of principles to define the basis of a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, within whose framework it would be possible to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza. The Soviets have proposed the idea of issuing this declaration of principles to the Americans on several occasions.
2. The Bush administration rejected the idea of holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, whether in Cairo or in other capitals, under joint Soviet-U.S. auspices. It has only agreed that the Soviets may send an observer to this dialogue in Cairo, provided that the United States play the major and basic role in holding it.
3. The Bush administration rejected the idea of holding consultations among the UN Security Council five permanent member states on the Palestine question and elections in the West Bank and Gaza. This idea was proposed by Shevardnadze during his recent visit to New York in September.

Within this framework and in light of these facts, the Soviets are currently seeking to play a more dynamic and direct role in developing the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. The covert proposal to hold a meeting between 'Arafat and Baker in the presence of Shevardnadze at the United Nations, and the overt proposal to hold negotiations between PLO and Israeli Government delegations in Moscow, is based on this. In addition to this, the Soviets are encouraging the PLO leadership to harden its stands and conditions for dialogue with the Israeli officials and for accepting elections in the West Bank and Gaza, not to torpedo the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue or the idea of holding elections, but with the objective of giving a bigger role to the PLO in any new peace process. In addition to all this, the Soviets seek to play a bigger role in the process of settling the Palestine question. They want a role that is equal to the U.S. role, and not a secondary role. The Soviets do not want the years of supporting the Palestine question to go out the window, and allow the United States to reap the full benefits for itself. The Soviets are convinced that their participation in any peace process will give more guarantees to the comprehensive solution, and not to a partial solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, all this is taking place within the framework of the Soviet concern for continuing and developing the dialogue and coordination with the United States regarding the Middle East issues, and not for stopping this dialogue and coordination between Moscow and Washington.

From this premise, for example, the Soviets will not pressure the Bush administration to grant 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States, but they believe that circumstances and the progress of peace efforts would help grant this visa to the Palestinian president. All this is within the framework of the Soviet concern for developing contacts with Israel and for creating a better atmosphere for peace on the front of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Baker Proposal 'Refined Copy' of Shamir Plan

PM1910123789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Oct 89 p 2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Baker Peace Plan a Refined Copy of Israeli Plan"]

[Excerpt] London, Baghdad, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of its delegation to the dialogue with the United States, has described U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace plan as a refined copy of the Israeli peace plan, especially Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's ideas and plan for holding elections in the occupied territories.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the new U.S. plan can in no way be a basis for dialogue.

'Abd-Rabbuh's statement coincided with a statement by a PLO spokesman that the PLO Executive Committee had requested the Palestinian Central Council to reject the Baker proposals.

The spokesman said that Yasir 'Arafat, who was speaking on behalf of the Executive Committee, requested the Central Council, which comprises 108 members, to reject the Baker plan and any other proposal inconsistent with the PLO initiative.

The PLO spokesman added that the PLO document had emphasized once again that any Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinians in any dialogue or talks must be chosen by the PLO and enjoy its approval.

In previous statements the spokesman had reiterated that the PLO is the only party that has the first and final right to choose and announce Palestinian delegations.

He also said that any meeting with Israel must be held in the presence of representatives of the five Security Council states, the UN secretary general, and all the other parties concerned.

The spokesman affirmed that the PLO Executive Committee document read out by 'Arafat urged the Central Council to reject the Baker plan and any other proposal inconsistent with the PLO initiative.

He added that the PLO document considered the Baker plan a new attempt to circumvent the Palestinian initiative and bolster the Shamir plan.

He went on to say that the paper also urges the escalation of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories and firm adherence to the Palestine National Council

resolutions and the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit held in Casablanca, Morocco, in May.

The Central Council yesterday discussed the PLO-U.S. dialogue as well as the Israeli prime minister's and the U.S. secretary of state's plans, in addition to Syrian-Palestinian relations and Arab financial aid to the PLO. [passage omitted]

Radio Terms U.S. 'Archenemy' of Palestinians

JN1910214089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1948 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Commentary by the radio's "political editor"]

[Text] Everyone, particularly in our region, is aware of the U.S. role in the Arab-Israeli struggle. Much has been said about this role, which has been given various descriptions. However, the most important description is that the United States is the only state in the world that puts its political, moral, and material resources in the service of Israel and the Zionist movement. Therefore, the United States is the archenemy of the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights, including the right of self-determination and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

Furthermore, nobody is ignorant of the motives of the U.S. moves, which began last December. The Americans would not have taken the step of holding a dialogue with the PLO had it not been for the pressure created by the brave Palestinian intifadah, which shook the earth under the feet of the Zionist entity. Our people and their leadership are not deceived by the U.S. officials' statements about the desire to find a peaceful solution for the Arab-Israeli dispute. We are aware that the Americans are mainly aiming at circumventing the Palestinian intifadah and driving a wedge between the intifadah masses and the remaining portion of the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative. The Americans also move with the aim of serving Israel and its aggressive existence.

Did Shultz, the former U.S. secretary of state, not do this when he came to occupied Jerusalem seeking a meeting with a Palestinian delegation whom he thought he could negotiate with and direct a blow at the PLO? Were the Americans, including the present administration, not responsible for the hardline Israeli position, which rejects the idea of self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state? Has the White House not always adopted the position of rejecting the Palestinian state while claiming that it was trying to find a just and peaceful solution for the Palestinian issue? Finally, was the Baker plan not mainly an American attempt to circumvent the Egyptian president's 10-point plan and hence save the notorious Shamir plan?

The facts pertaining to the U.S. stand are clear. They do not warrant further investigation or examination. The U.S. intentions harbored toward the Palestinian people and their cause are first and foremost Zionist in nature. We are well aware that we are dealing, in our dialogue with the Americans and the stands that we take toward them, with the archenemy of the Palestinian people and that our persistent aim is to obtain gains for our cause and people from this enemy, which is primarily responsible for the continuation of the Zionist occupation, for its terrorist power, for its arrogance, and for its flaunting of all serious efforts that seek to find a just peace for the Palestine question.

In contrast, we are also aware of the Palestinian facts concerning the Palestinian people's will to continue the struggle to help secure the Palestinians' national rights to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state. We are aware that the blessed Palestinian intifadah is what rocked U.S. diplomacy and forced it to decide to launch a dialogue with the PLO and to exert diplomatic efforts in the region, considering that the Americans under the Reagan administration made no mention of the Palestine question. We are aware of the U.S. maneuvers which fall in line with the Zionist attempts to eliminate or circumvent the Palestinian people, their leadership, and intifadah. The Palestinians—leadership, people, and intifadah masses—will lie in wait for these attempts. The objectives of our people and those of their leadership which represents this people are the same objectives set by their intifadah in the occupied homeland. These objectives can be summed up in one objective. This objective is an expression of the same national will. All the conspiracies that do not recognize the rights to self-determination, to repatriation, and to establish the state will be crushed against the rock of this will. The Americans are prevaricating, procrastinating, and maneuvering. Our people are tackling their cause displaying all seriousness, determination, and firmness. Manifestations of our people's behavior in this regard are the sacrifices being offered, the blood of the martyrs being spilled, and the strong, indefatigable will.

Our objective is clear. We will proceed to achieve this objective demonstrating resolve and determination. We will not budge from attaining this objective, no matter how long it takes, regardless of the dear sacrifices entailed, and no matter how intransigent this U.S.-Zionist alliance against our people becomes. Our people have determined to wage through their intifadah the battle until victory. God willing, they will attain this victory. It is revolution until victory.

Editorial Backs PLO Rejection of Baker Plan

PM2010082689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Oct 89 p 9

[Editorial: "Palestinians' Representation or Deception?"]

[Text] The Palestinian Central Council has the right to criticize U.S. policy in the Middle East, especially with regard to James Baker's plan concerning Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Baker's plan actually denies the PLO its right to represent the Palestinian people and confines consultations on representation in the Palestinian delegation to the United States, Israel, and Egypt, as though Shamir's final objective were not the Palestinians' representation but, rather, their deception, especially since he has spent his political life torturing them!

It has become clear that Israel's refusal to deal with the PLO is attributable not to what Israel terms the exercise of "terrorism," but to the fact that it represents the Palestinian people as a whole. Israel's objective has always been, and still is, to erase the Palestinian people's identity and obtain from the international community an authenticated certificate that this people died in 1948 and that the focus must be on the future of the "inhabitants" of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in order to secure a negotiated formula with their representatives only on autonomy under Israeli sovereignty.

If the PLO represented only the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Israel would have started negotiating with it long ago, even if it were the strongest terrorist organization in the world. But as long as the PLO represents the entire Palestinian people throughout historic Palestine and leads their growing and escalating struggle to guarantee their inalienable legitimate rights, especially the right to self-determination, Israel will continue to reject the PLO, even if President Yasir 'Arafat were to be granted the Nobel peace prize.

What the PLO is trying to do, in cooperation with Egypt, is not to disturb the atmosphere of peace that now characterizes the active international endeavors on behalf of the Palestinian issue, but without harming the Palestinian people's rights and the PLO's role in representing them everywhere in the diaspora.

The inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are part of the Palestinian people and neither Israel nor any international quarter can make them represent their brothers in the diaspora in finding an incomplete solution for the Palestinian issue. It is in fact out of the question, as proven by their rejection of the Baker plan biased toward Israel.

Perhaps the Palestinian Central Council's recourse to civil disobedience against the Israeli occupation administration in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would not have become a people's and political necessity had it not been for the PLO's conviction that the U.S. response to the Palestinian, Egyptian, and Arab initiatives is still below the level required and still reflects a clear bias toward the aggressor and occupying state.

'Arafat Aide Welcomes Support From FRG

PM1910162989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 3

[Ahmad Kamal Hamdi Report: "Bassam Abu-Sharif Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Bonn: FRG Affirmed Its Support for Palestinians' Right To Self-Determination"]

[Text] Bonn, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Within the framework of his visit to the FRG capital and following his meeting with Dr Juergen Sudhoff, state secretary at the German Foreign Ministry, Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, made a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on his visit, the development of events in the occupied territories, and the escalation of the Palestinian people's intifadah. He said that the objective of his visit to Bonn had been to brief FRG officials on current conditions in occupied Palestine and to meet with German media officials to explain the truth about what is happening on the Palestinian scene. He added that his visit, the first of its kind, has opened the door for the development of Palestinian-German relations on clear political foundations.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Bassam Abu-Sharif said that his meeting with German official Sudhoff comprised two parts: a political and a humanitarian part. Politically, Sudhoff affirmed the FRG's support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination as well as their right to choose the form they want in that connection, and explained Germany's policy in guaranteeing the security of all region's states and their right to live in peace within recognized and secured borders.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Abu-Sharif also added that the German official expressed his profound respect for the responsible PLO position, which has contributed to keeping the door open for the development of Palestinian-German relations.

As for the humanitarian aspect of the visit and his meeting with German officials, Abu-Sharif pointed out that he explained to Sudhoff, state secretary at the German Foreign Ministry, the need of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories for economic and humanitarian aid, because the Israeli occupation forces have embarked on destroying economic amenities and the infrastructure in the occupied territories.

He said that Bonn had promised to provide humanitarian aid and expressed his hope that the Palestinian and German states will continue to exchange views, and especially to organize German aid for the struggling Palestinian people.

In his statement Abu-Sharif emphasized that the new German position is a notable pointer within the framework of international political developments concerning the Middle East, in view of the FRG's economic power in the world, its influence within the EC, and its growing political weight in international politics.

He added that the importance of that pointer has been clear since President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Japan—which had announced clearly and openly its support for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish the Palestinian state in the occupied territories.

Abu-Sharif said that he had explained to the German officials with whom he met during his visit to Bonn the

regrettable conditions in the occupied territories and the need to stop Israel, since its mad practices will backfire on it and expose the region's security and world peace to danger; and the West has a historical responsibility which it must shoulder. He emphasized that the course of history is on the side of the Arab people in Palestine, since their roots in that Arab land are deep.

He also added that he had informed German officials that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not want peace, nor does he want to achieve a political solution or withdraw from the occupied territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In fact he wants to annex them to Israel—something which he had announced to the Israeli Knesset. This is because Shamir still has a mentality of colonialism and settlement. This is why the PLO is addressing the question not to him but to the United States and U.S. President George Bush, because U.S. backing for Israel will lead to nothing but increasing extremism and the risk of an explosion in the region.

On the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue in Tunis, Abu-Sharif pointed out that these talks are still continuing and that the PLO had responded to the U.S. call for recognizing UN resolutions, condemning terrorism, and recognizing Israel's right to exist within secure borders. But it seems that the recent attempts are aimed at fragmenting the issue and stirring up the question of the Palestinian delegation's formation—a waste of time and a submission to Israeli blackmail.

Abu-Sharif emphasized that the Palestinian people's resistance to the Israeli occupation will not stop, whatever the repressive Israeli measures, and that the PLO possesses forces with which to reply to Israel's barbarous escalation in the occupied territories.

Abu-Sharif held a news conference at the PLO office in Bonn, which was attended by more than 80 Arab, German, and foreign journalists. In the presence of 'Abdallah Ifranji, PLO representative in West Germany, Abu-Sharif explained the Israeli forces' violations of human rights as well as the crime they are committing, indicating that what is happening in Nabulus today is an operation of organized plunder carried out by Israel, especially after it committed an organized massacre in the village of Bayt Sahur. He also said that the Palestinian resistance inside and outside are one under the PLO leadership.

Hawatimah Interviewed on Palestinian Affairs

JN1810082889 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
15 Oct 89 p 25

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] What subjects were discussed by the Palestinian leadership during its recent meeting, and is there anything new?

[Hawatimah] During its recent meeting, the Palestinian leadership discussed the political solutions in the Middle East. The Palestinian leadership has acquainted itself with the results of talks held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session between the Soviet Union and the United States; among the Security Council five permanent member states; between U.S. President George Bush and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak; between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

Intensive talks and contacts were held on the Middle East in general and the Palestine question in particular during the General Assembly session. At the same time, everyone knows the outcome of the Israeli Inner Cabinet meeting, which was held at a time when the bloody repression was being stepped up against the Palestinian people's intifadah. This repression was represented in the occupation army's aggression against the township of Bayt Sahur and in attempts to move this aggression to Bethlehem and Ramallah in a new form of Zionist occupation to deal a blow to the intifadah. In addition, the Palestinian leadership discussed the PLO's recent contacts over the past weeks in order to draw up solutions to the recent developments and to work out a mode of action for the next stage to reinforce the intifadah and the Palestinian struggle based on the Palestinian peace initiative.

We have recently noticed that the talks held in New York and Washington have resulted in a stalemate. During his meetings with Bush and Baker, Shevardnadze put forward a series of proposals on the Middle East. These included a proposal on a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue on condition that the PLO form its own delegation from inside and outside [the occupied territories], that there is an open agenda, and that the dialogue is held under the UN flag in the presence of Javier Perez de Cuellar or his representative. The Soviet side also showed readiness to host the dialogue in Moscow and proposed that preparations be made by the representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council for an international conference. All these proposals were rejected, and the U.S. side insisted that a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue should be held on the basis of Shamir's election plan and that the Palestinian delegation should be formed from residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This is how the Soviet-U.S. talks on the Middle East have ended. The U.S. talks with many other parties involved in the Palestine question, especially Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, also ended in the same way. The U.S. Administration did not approve Egypt's proposal to host a Palestinian-Israeli meeting on the basis of an open agenda and a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territories. It insisted on supporting Shamir's plan.

During the Palestinian leadership's meeting, we noted that President Mubarak's speech at the United Nations completely ignored the 10-point plan attributed to him, because he viewed them as mere questions to be answered by the Israeli Government.

In addition to the United States' adoption of Shamir's plan, we noted that during his contacts with the Americans, the Soviets, and the Egyptians, Arens repeated his government's ideas and rejected the major three Egyptian points related to the issue of land for peace. Instead, he proposed peace for peace between Israel and the Arab countries. Therefore, he addresssed the Arab countries from the UN forum, urging them to enter immediately into peace negotiations—ignoring the Palestinians. He also rejected the participation of Jerusalem residents in the election as well as any attempt to stop the establishment of settlements. The remaining seven points that he did approve were merely procedural.

All this was discussed during the meeting and it clearly indicates that our struggle for the Palestinian peace initiative and the intifadah have not changed the total U.S. bias toward Israel and its opposition of the Palestinian side's concerns.

We also discussed Israel's rejection of the Egyptian 10-point plan. It has become clear to us that the U.S. hopes pinned on the Israeli Inner Cabinet session have collapsed because the United States believed in the possibility of an Israeli response to the Egyptian proposals, since they were, originally, the same U.S. proposals announced by Bush and Baker on previous occasions. Now the Palestinian leadership is studying these developments to draw up plans based on the Palestinian peace initiative and to take militant steps to reinforce and strengthen the intifadah and extend every kind of material, political, and moral support to it. At the same time, the leadership also discussed in depth how to turn the Casablanca summit resolutions into practical action because we have noticed that the resolution on forming an Arab committee under King Hassan II to visit world capitals was not put into effect.

The Casablanca resolution calling for intensive coordination and cooperation among the five confrontation states—Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine—was not implemented either.

The Palestinian leadership believes that it is necessary to prepare serious proposals for submission to the PLO Central Council meeting to be held in Baghdad so it can make the proper resolutions. Within this framework, the Palestinian leadership stressed the need to abide resolutely by the political initiative approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC], and to insist on continuing action in accordance with this initiative to seek political solutions in a way that would secure the interests of all the conflicting parties in the Middle East region; and which would enable the PLO to form its delegation from inside and outside. The delegation should be named and announced by the PLO, and a comprehensive and balanced solution should be reached through an international conference.

In the context of preparations for the international conference, the Palestinian leadership expresses its readiness to accept all forms of preparatory meetings with the Israeli side in a manner allowing effective preparation for an international conference, provided that these meeting be held at one of the UN headquarters venues and be attended by the UN secretary general, or his representative, and representatives of the UN Security Council five permanent states.

The PLO stresses that neither great nor small powers have the right to interfere in the composition of a Palestinian delegation, because this is the right of the PLO—especially as it is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; is recognized by all the Arab states and by an overwhelming majority of the world's nations; and, particularly, since the state of Palestine is recognized by 104 states.

Current U.S. action, especially after the Israeli rejection of Egypt's 10 points—characterized by its attempt to negotiate with both Egypt and Israel to form the Palestinian delegation and by its denial of having sent Dennis Ross, director of the Policy Planning Staff in the U.S. State Department, to Tel Aviv and Cairo to discuss the subject—indicates a new insistence on the part of the U.S. Administration to ignore the fact that the PLO represents the Palestinian people. This constitutes disregard for the rules of the dialogue currently held between the United States and the PLO and which has been going on for almost 10 months.

It is not the right of one state or a group of states to impose guardianship over the Palestinian people or to impose representatives on them. This is the PLO's full and inalienable right.

[Al-Barqawi] What are the topics to be discussed in the PLO Central Council's meetings?

[Hawatimah] It will review everything the Palestinian leadership dealt with in its last meeting. A subcommittee has been formed to check and formulate the draft law in light of the discussions and present it to the Central Council.

[Al-Barqawi] In light of what you have said, can we expect the coming stage to bring neither concessions nor flexibility but more firmness?

[Hawatimah] We are concerned to maintain a national Palestinian position within the framework of PLO institutions. In light of what we have achieved, the PLO will stick firmly to the Palestinian peace intiative in all its elements. The PLO will also adhere its sole representation of the Palestinian people, to its full right to form a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside the occupied territory, and to the principle that any preparatory contacts for the international conference should have an

open agenda without preconditions. This means we refuse to make the Shamir plan the basis for negotiations. We insist on what the international community—with its overwhelming majority—and international legitimacy have decided for us.

With regard to flexibility, I do not know what you mean by this word. If you mean the readiness to hold a dialogue on everything related to the Middle East within the PLO and to give answers to them, then we support flexibility—that is, flexibility that is firmly based on the Palestinian peace intiative.

It is clear that, after the PLO's initiative had gained a great deal, conflict continued against the attempts to bypass it.

[Al-Barqawi] The firm Palestinian position must be based on two basic pillars—that is, the intifadah and the Arab stand. Do you believe that the intifadah will mature in the next stage? And, do you believe that there are no shortcomings in the Arab stand, particularly since some people have said that nobody is concern ! about establishing an independent Palestinian state?

[Hawatimah] Under the banner of the PLO's cohesive national position and the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah, I have great confidence that the intifadah will develop and mature. The next weeks and months will bring large-scale development in the comprehensiveness and steadfastness of the intifadah in the face of all forms of Israeli repression—from the killing which is known throughout the world to the large-scale plundering in Bayt Sahur. Despite the Arabs' failure to support the people there, thousands of families have remained steadfast for week after week in a state of a general strike to torpedo the magnetic card system. This is because the intifadah has gained much from its own mechanisms. After 20 years under occupation, the people have reached the conclusion that there is no solution other than the intifadah and its continuation and that there is no retreat—not one inch—because any retreat will cause the enemy to escalate its repression, steal more land, and build more settlements.

We hope and struggle so that the PLO will be able to do its utmost to compensate for the grave, in fact shameful, Arab failure to reinforce the steadfastness against the occupation forces.

As for the Arab political position, it is very regrettable that the political and material complications of the Arab regimes are all burdensome. Politically, we are seeing blatant attempts to evade compliance with the Casablanca summit resolutions. It is regrettable and painful that many Arab states are attempting to ignore their commitment to the Casablanca summit resolutions. One Arab leader said that the Arab states are not unanimous on the need to establish an independent Palestinian state, whereas the Casablanca summit resolutions were adopted unanimously. Another crack in the Arab position is the Egyptian 10-point plan, which opened the door for U.S. pressures in a bid to turn the questions contained in these points into an Egyptian initiative, despite the fact that the Egyptians announced more than once that they had no initiative to propose. That is why President Mubarak did not mention these points in his UN General Assembly speech. The United States wants to make these points the limit of the Palestinian people's national rights.

All this does not fall in line with the Casablanca summit resolutions. This is evidence proving that some Arab states are not demonstrating the high sense of responsibility that would make them see the need to enhance and consecrate Arab solidarity on the basis of mutual respect.

In addition, the Arabs have so far chosen to overlook the forming of a higher Arab committee whose task would be to pressure the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the West European states to begin preparations for the international conference. A comprehensive and balanced solution can only be attained on the basis of the Casablanca summit resolutions. Any solution not based on these resolutions would fail to secure the Palestinian people's rights. If the Casablanca summit resolutions are not honored, we would be left with a conflict managed by the United States and Israel with the aim of "confining" the Palestinian national rights to those contained in the Shamir plan.

In this context, many friendly states, particularly the USSR, the PRC, and Western Europe are saying that the greatest weakness in the Middle East state of affairs lies in the Arab positions, which do not work to implement the resolutions adopted at Arab summits.

All parties are aware of the importance of unified Arab action that could exert pressure on the U.S. Administration to make it, in turn, apply pressure on Israel with the aim of attaining a balanced solution serving the interests of all parties—instead of demonstrating a blatant bias in favor of Israel.

Our options are very clear; and they were set by the intifadah. There will be no going back to the pre-intifadah era. The intifadah will forge ahead until the removal of the occupation and the recovery of independence. The PLO represents all the Palestinian people and is the agency with the right to form its delegations to all regional or international fora.

[Al-Barqawi] Some Palestinian figures from the territories recently arrived in Tunis. Some of these figures are nationalist figures, while others are known as being affiliated to the so-called village leagues. How do you interpret these visits? Is it through such methods that the intifadah is being backed?

[Hawatimah] Of course, we are eager to draw a distinction between all those who are nationalists and those who dissented and acted against the homeland as well as the people.

Therefore, we, in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], extend our hands to all that is

nationalist in implementation of the intifadah's call, which says that the Unified National Leadership, with its forces and leaders, expresses the intifadah's conscience.

[Al-Barqawi] On various occasions, all Palestinian officials have affirmed that the PLO was not informed of the 10 Egyptian points except through the media. However, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid have said on more than one occasion that there is full coordination between Egypt and the PLO in every respect. What is the truth?

[Hawatimah] Based on the recent dialogue between Palestinian leaders, I can say that the 10 explanatory points were proposed by the Egyptian Government and considered a beginning since they are directed to the Israeli Government. I can say that the Egyptian Government did not coordinate with the PLO, the Palestinian leadership was not aware of these points, and that these points were formulated outside the framework of contacts with Egypt.

[Al-Barqawi] Has the recent 'Arafat-Gorbachev meeting in East Berlin produced anything new in the Soviet position?

[Hawatimah] The meeting was held on the basis of the excellent Palestinian-Soviet relationship, which has been continuously developing since the rebirth of Palestinian nationalism and by virtue of the great intifadah and the resulting political initiative.

In that meeting, the results of the recent USSR-U.S. talks on the Middle East were discussed and an agreement was reached on the need to hold a joint review of all results of these talks in accordance with the joint coordination between the two sides.

[Al-Barqawi] In the past few years, Palestinian-Syrian relations saw a number of developments, but in the wrong direction. Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] met recently with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Is there anything that can be described as an area of agreement to give relations between the two sides a new dimension?

[Hawatimah] This question should be directed to Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] or Brother Abu-al-Lutf. I did not participate personally in the meeting with Faruq al-Shar', nor did any of my comrades in the DFLP.

Abu-al-Lutf submitted a report on the findings of his meeting with Al-Shar' and his assessment of these findings at the Palestinian leadership meeting.

I do not want to speak on behalf of our brothers. However, I would like to add that Qaddumi's assessment indicated that Al-Shar' had stated Syria's readiness to begin a dialogue with the PLO on the basis of an open agenda, and that many obstacles between the two sides have been settled and overcome by the passage of time or other developments.

Faruq al-Shar' has also said that the outstanding issues are all capable of being positively discussed. Still, as to what might happen afterward, I can add nothing, since consultations are underway concerning the possibility of forming a Palestinian delegation to hold talks with the Syrians.

Hawatimah Comments on Rejection of Baker Plan

JN2010093889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 20

[Text] Baghdad—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has said that the PLO Central Council's members have unanimously rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals on the Middle East, but no official statement has shown this.

Hawatimah said he is not satisfied with the failure to clearly reject Baker's plan.

He added: The statement did not include this point (the rejection of Baker's plan) because there was manipulation of the wording and it was not an expression of the PLO Central Council's position.

Hawatimah said that he was not present when the statement was written late the night before last. He said he was then meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Hawatimah stated that the Council unanimously rejected Baker's plan and found that it fully contradicted the Palestinian peace plan approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC].

Hawatimah said that Baker's plan deprives the PLO of its right to represent the Palestinian people because the plan calls for forming the Palestinian delegation after consultations among the United States, Egypt, and Israel only.

He added that the second point in the plan lays the foundations for the negotiations on the basis of the elections and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories which will lead to a limited autonomy.

Hawatimah said the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has reached a deadlock because of the U.S. Administration's full bias in favor of the Zionist enemy, and its insistence on the elections plan, which it considers the ceiling for any discussion on the Palestine question.

In an exclusive interview with AL-WATAN, the DFLP secretary general said: Egypt's 10 points came as a desperate attempt to revive the Israeli-U.S. elections plan in the form of inquiring questions. Then came the U.S. conceit demonstrated by the invitation to [Egyptian and Israeli Foreign Ministers] 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and [Moshe] Arens to consult and discuss with Washington the formation of the Palestinian delegation, and by Baker's five points which revolve around giving the

United States, Israel, and Egypt the right to form the Palestinian delegation totally ignoring the PLO's presence. All of this came to demonstrate, clearly, that the U.S. policy in the Middle East has changed in tactics, not in substance.

Hawatimah asserted that the United States still insists on the Camp David policy and on imposing solutions and separate deals. He stressed the need to continue the dialogue with the United States in spite of the U.S. bias in favor of Israel. However, he cautioned about pinning great hopes on that dialogue. He said those who have these illusions have over the past 10 months built sand castles about this dialogue and they are now discovering the true nature of the U.S. position which comes down on the side of the Israeli plan.

He referred to the need to rectify the course of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, as well as to the need to not allow it to swing between U.S. desires and insistence on Shamir's plan and Palestinian objection to this plan. He said: We must say to the U.S. Administration in very clear words: No to the elections plan and Shamir's plan, no to Egypt's 10 points, and no to Baker's five points. The United States does not have the right at all to consult with any side, whichever it may be, on the formation of the Palestinian delegation.

Asked whether the PLO has the political and military power to rectify the course of the dialogue with the United States, being a political battle between the two sides, Hawatimah mentioned five basic points that he considered capable of rectifying the course of the dialogue and the biased U.S. stance toward Israel.

First, insistence on the items of the Palestinian peace initiative as adopted by the PNC in Algiers. This initiative enjoyed a worldwide response because it is essentially based on international legitimacy.

Second, developing the intifadah from within by promoting its organizational structure, halting all external bureaucratic interference that harms the joint action of the Unified National Leadership, and transferring money to the intifadah through this leadership; only one third of the financial aid to the intifadah goes through the Unified National Leadership, which clearly means that a great deal of the aid may go in the wrong direction.

Third, motivating Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria, which are the hot links to the intifadah, and searching for means and ways to raise these camps' political and armed popular role against the Zionist enemy, in addition to lifting the restrictions on these camps so that they can provide the intifadah with strugglers.

Fourth, serious work toward rebuilding the Arab front in support of the intifadah. This front should comprise all educated, literary, cultural, and spiritual forces and individuals in the Arab world. By this, we take the Arab masses back to their effective field on the side of the intifadah; we should not be content with the official decisions of the Arab regimes only.

Fifth, serious endeavor to set up world committees to support the intifadah; these should comprise efficient personalities and parties in the world.

Hawatimah stressed that through these five steps, the PLO can have an alternative to begging in the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and the United States' insistence on full support for and bias toward Israel. He said the United States will then think twice before continuing its full bias toward Israel and will look for a balanced policy in the Middle East.

Hawatimah criticized the course of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue and said: The dialogue has taken a wrong course in which the Americans present their proposals and the Palestinian side gives answers only. He called for turning the negotiations table so that the PLO asks the U.S. side to give definite answers to issues acknowledged by international legitimacy but which the United States has failed to recognize so far. Hawatimah pointed out that the Palestinians' aim in the dialogue is to foster an even-handed U.S. policy in the Middle East and to pass from the Camp David accords and Shamir's plan to the acknowledgement of the Palestinian peoples' rights to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. But Hawatimah added: This goal will not be achieved because the dialogue is moving in the wrong direction.

UNESCO Application Deferred to Next Session

JN2010105789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1926 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] In its 25th session in Paris, the UNESCO General Conference has unanimously approved the UNESCO Executive Board's recommendation to involve the state of Palestine in all of the UNESCO's activities and to make it benefit from all of its programs until Palestine is accepted as a full member during the next session.

Following the conference resolution, Brother 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, head of the PLO's Education Department, delivered a speech on behalf of the state of Palestine in which he thanked the general conference for its stand, which, with the exception of Israel and the United States, was unanimous.

He then touched on the considerations that led Palestine's provisional government to defer its membership application to the next session although Palestine enjoys a majority in the general conference. He said that, from this position of strength, Palestine's provisional government requests the deferral in order to spare the UNESCO confrontations of political nature and to foil the attempts of those who search for excuses and justifications for their negative positions.

WAFA Editor Appeals to 'American Conscience'

JN1510130589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 2004 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Article by PALESTINE PRESS AGENCY (WAFA) political editor: "Calm Dialogue With the U.S. Administration"]

[Text] This time, we will not criticize the U.S. Administration's position. We will not try to hold this Administration responsible for what it already knows—that by its bias toward Israel and its support for racist and bloody Israeli terrorism it is practicing oppression and injustice against the Palestinian people.

This time, we will invite the U.S. Administration under President Bush to stand in our shoes to observe and examine the torture, killings, and massacres our bodies are suffering and the violations, robberies, and attacks on our institutions, homes, and finances—which could only be committed by wild criminals.

We do not ask Mr Bush to place himself in our besieged cities of Nabulus and Bayt Sahur, both of which have been isolated from the outside world and even from our world inside the occupied territories. What we wish him to do is only to order his ambassador or his second consul-general to inform him about what is happening—that is, if he really does not know what is happening.

After that, we leave it up to Mr Bush to decide whether he should continue supporting fascism and the fascists; terrorism and the terrorists; or whether he would return to the principles espoused by the first pioneering U.S. leaders.

Some might say that we are naive to ask this of the U.S. Administration. We readily accept this accusation. However, only for the sake of our people; for the pure Palestinian blood, and our martyrs, and for the sake of stopping the violations of our homes, properties, freedom, and sanctities we will keep on trying with the U.S. Administration, the American people, and anyone with close ties with the United States—however feeble the hopes are of this attempt.

We do not believe that we are doing something wrong. We do not believe that we would be surrendering to the United States. We know very well that this is a form of passive resistance we are exerting to eliminate injustice and establish justice with the hope that the screaming call of justice will affect the American citizen's view of our position and our cause; that is, if there is no hope of it affecting the White House or the U.S. Department of State, whose representative, a couple of days ago in the United Nations, stood side by side for a time with oppression, terrorism, racism, and blatant evil.

Yes. We need a just and straight U.S. vision capable of distinguishing good from evil and right from wrong, without being controlled by the Jewish lobby, which has pushed the U.S. Administration to take this immoral stand against our people—people who are resisting with stones their occupiers who are killing them with mortars and cannons.

We must impress the depths of the American conscience and torture this conscience to make it reject the stupidity of its administration and accept the principles of freedom, justice, human rights, and truth. The most basic of these is liberating our people from the occupation and lifting the sword of daily massacre from their necks.

Six Palestinian martyrs fell on the eve of the prophet's birthday, scores of people were injured—some gravely, areas were closed off, and Nabulus and Bayt Sahur were isolated from the rest of the world. Does this not mean anything to the U.S. Administration? It should mean something and we will continue to pursue it because we know that this administration has powerful influence in our Middle Eastern world and on the Palestinian map. We will continue to pursue the U.S. Administration with the justice of our struggle and with our blood which is shed under Israeli terrorist oppression.

However, we shall not surrender to it, because that is not our destiny.

Seminar on Economic Problems in Territories

AU1510152089 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 14-15 Oct 89 p 4

[Livia Klingl report: "EC Promotes Economic Independence of Palestinians"]

[Text] Vienna—Representatives of UN Organizations; economic experts from Great Britain, the United States, and the FRG; Palestinians from the occupied territories; and PLO representatives discussed the economic problems in the West Bank and Gaza at a 3-day seminar in Vienna's International Center.

'Abd-al-Fatah Abu-Shukur, professor at Nabulus University, said that 70 percent of the food demand of the occupied territories is covered by food from Israel. When the curfew was imposed, the towns suffered from a lack of supplies and the hospitals did not have enough pharmaceuticals. About 40 percent of the workers are working in Israel, according to him. The Israeli measures harm both the Palestinians and Israel. According to Abu-Shukur, so far the intifadah has cost Israel $3.6 billion. The Palestinian losses amount to about 35 percent of the gross national product of $1 billion.

Even though the West Bank and Gaza do not have many raw materials and the number of inhabitants—1.8 million—is low, it would be possible to establish an independent state. The Palestinians have two advantages in building their economy: highly qualified people and available financial sources. Abu-Shukur considers initial unemployment the biggest problem of a Palestinian

state. About 120,000 people are working in Israel's economy, who would then have to be integrated into the Palestinian economy.

In the view of Dieter Weiss, professor for national economics of the Middle East at the Berlin Free University, the loss of time regarding structural changes in view of the European unification in 1992—a loss caused by the occupation—is marked. The Palestinians would have to be competitive in comparison with countries like Spain and Greece. For this purpose, marketing systems have to be established, "niches of demand" have to be found in Europe, sales chains and cooling systems have to be established, and production technology has to be developed. There must be a continuous chain from the producer to the buyer. In order to be able to exploit market niches, one needs the possibility of making decisions in a politically independent way, which is not possible under the occupation. The most decisive argument in Weiss' view is "that the people have survived under the most difficult conditions since 1967; why should they not survive under better conditions?"

If an independent Palestinian state is established, the EC will provide transitional financing, which he estimates at about $1 billion. The EC has issued statements that it will stabilize the state sociopolitically for 1 to 2 years.

It has already decided on special quotas for Palestinian agricultural products. Recently, goods have been imported directly from Palestine, which eliminates Israeli or Jordan intermediate merchants.

Algeria

Hamrouche Meets Journalists at Press Forum

LD1910085489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] A forum, bringing together Algerian Head of Government Mr Mouloud Hamrouche and members of the national press has taken place at Ibn-Khaldoun Hall in Algiers. An open discussion on the main concerns facing the nation took place at this forum, which was attended by a huge number of journalists as well as a number of learned people in politics, economics, and culture. From Ibn-Khaldoun Hall our colleague Ahmed Charmati has dispatched the following recording on this forum:

[Begin recording] [Ahmed Charmati] Topics facing the national scene at this moment as well as a number of issues on the agenda of the government, which was recently adopted by the National People's Assembly, formed the axis of the meeting, which brought together at Ibn-Khaldoun in Algiers last night Algerian Head of Government Mr Mouloud Hamrouche and a large number of Algerian journalists. The head of the government expressed great satisfaction over his meeting with the journalists, which is an opportunity to acquaint himself with the concerns and the interests of the members of the press in our country. Afterward, the opportunity was given to a number of journalists to ask questions on the government's duties within the framework of the reforms under way in our country.

Replying to a question on the freedom of information in our country the head of the government said:

[Hamrouche] When we talk about the freedom of information, although there is not much difference and a very small line to be drawn between the freedom of information and the freedom of expression, their respective fields and subjects are not the same. We should not, this is my opinion—and we are prepared to go as far as we can—impose any restriction on the members of the press and the way they convey the news. The only restriction which should remain is the individual's conscience, which should be in harmony with national causes and the nation's vital interests. Of course, we should not get carried away with some of the superficialities we might witness, nor should we have a bad and false understanding of democracy and freedom of information—freedom of information to convey a news item, yes, and the freedom of how to deal with a news item should be left to the professional journalist.

However, mistakes were made in the past because the office which used to appraise the analysis of a news item was prone to mistakes—as it was run by human beings who are like any journalist. And maybe the journalist has more expertise in his profession than the administrator. This was one of the reasons which prompted us to abolish the administration [Ministry of Information]. [end recording]

This is the radio correspondent at Ibn-Khaldoun Hall. Now back to the main studio.

UGTA Denies Issuing Leaflets Urging Gathering

LD1810143189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] A leaflet calling on trade union members and workers to gather outside the headquarters of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] in the 1 May square in Algiers at 0900 tomorrow Thursday [19 October] has been distributed recently.

The strange thing is that the leaflet is not signed by whoever issued it. The national radio this morning got in touch with the General Secretariat of the UGTA and enquired about the matter. Mr Mohamed Lakhdari, the official in charge of information at the UGTA General Secretariat had this to say:

[Begin Lakhdari recording] The General Union of Algerian Workers—which is the trade union organization representing all the Algerian workers, and which is fighting relentlessly and is convinced of its fight to deepen democracy and give the workers absolute and total freedom without any restrictions to enable them to elect their representatives freely and democratically—today expresses its concern over the attitudes which are taking place outside the framework of the trade union organization and which are adopted by people who have in fact nothing to do with workers' representation. These people are holding meetings and gatherings to discuss matters. We cannot stand against people who want to express their views but they should not assume responsibilities or take on the mantle of representation which they have absolutely nothing to do within reality.

We would like to inform the brother workers, men and women, in all parts of the country and in all the national enterprises, and also all the workers' representatives, that this group has distributed a leaflet which calls for a meeting and gathering outside the UGTA headquarters tomorrow at 0900. The UGTA informs all the workers that it has nothing to do with this leaflet and that it has not called for this gathering. Therefore the UGTA washes its hands of all the possible consequences that might ensue at this gathering and warns these people that they are held totally responsible—before the workers and before history—for dividing the workers and for splitting the ranks of the UGTA. [end recording]

Egypt

Czechoslovak Premier Praises Mubarak, Tours Canal

NC1910153489 Cairo MENA in English 1439 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Ismailia, Oct 18 (MENA)—Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec hailed today the major role played by Egypt under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak on both the international and regional fronts in

solving the issues of the region and the continent noting the capacity of the president as the present chairman of the Organization for African Unity (OAU).

He emphasized the identicalness of viewpoints between Egypt and his country.

The statements were made by the Czechoslovak official during his tour today the city of Ismailia, the Suez Canal facilities and the tenth of Ramadan industrial estate on the Ismailia-Cairo road.

He made a cruise in the canal and watched the south-bound convoy of vessels transiting the waterway.

He hailed the efforts exerted by Egypt towards developing the Suez Canal and its management for the good and welfare of the world. He was informed of the future plans by the Suez Canal authority for two-waying the canal.

Affirms Importance of Relations

NC1910215389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—The Czechoslovak Government has expressed its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by President Husni Mubarak to reach a peaceful and just settlement of the Middle East problem that would restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Both Egypt and Czechoslovakia have also affirmed the importance of convening an international peace conference to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

In a press statement issued today at the conclusion of Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec's visit to Egypt, both sides affirmed the importance of intensifying efforts to achieve positive results in the disarmament talks and to eliminate all types of weapons of mass destruction. They also expressed their hope that the process of detente in international relations in various parts of the world will continue.

Concerning bilateral relations, the two sides expressed special interest in cooperation in the fields of scientific research and technology. They also noted that economic and trade relations between Egypt and Czechoslovakia are deep-rooted and serve the interests of both countries.

The following is the text of the press statement issued this evening on Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec's visit to Egypt:

At the invitation of Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ladislav Adamec, premier of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 17 to 19 October. The two sides held talks in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. The Czechoslovak delegation included Finance Minister Jan Stejskal; Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba; Frantisek Ondrich, minister chairman of the People's Control Commission; Deputy Trade Minister Jaromir Nehbera [name as received]; and Czechoslovak Ambassador in Cairo Milos Vesely.

On the Egyptian side the talks were attended by Dr Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Dr Yusuf Amin Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of industry; Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research affairs; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz, minister of finance; Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; Ambassador Sami Haybah, deputy foreign minister; Ambassador Mahmud Fathi, director of the Foreign Ministry's East European department; Nabil Hilmi, Egyptian ambassador in Prague; Dr 'Adil Muhammad Shukri, director of the trade representation office; Hamdi Nada, minister plenipotentiary; and Samih Darar, minister plenipoteniary.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received Mr Ladislav Adamec, who conveyed an invitation from Czechoslovak President Gustav Husak for a visit to his country.

The Czechoslovak delegation, led by the premier, laid a wreath at the unknown soldier's monument and visited the industrial estate of 10 Ramadan City, the city of Ismailia, the Egyptian museum, and the pyramids.

During their official talks, the Egyptian and Czechoslovak prime ministers exchanged views on the economic conditions in their countries and the efforts to achieve economic and social development for the benefit of their two peoples.

They also discussed in detail the relations between the two friendly countries, which are developing through efforts by and meetings between senior officials from both countries.

The well-established economic and social ties between Egypt and Czechoslovakia serve the interests of both countries.

Czechoslovakia has participated in the development of some Egyptian industries and in the implementation of a number of investment projects, especially in the energy field.

It was noted that ties between the two countries in the fields of culture, education, science, and health have improved. In this respect, the Egyptian side expressed appreciation for the valuable work undertaken by the Czechoslovak Egyptology Institute in archeological discoveries in Egypt.

The two sides showed special interest in cooperation in the field of scientific research and technology.

The exchange of views on the current world situation constituted an important part of the talks. The two sides held identical views on many important issues and on the need for the detente which has begun to prevail in international relations to continue.

The two sides believe that it is necessary to intensify the efforts to achieve positive results in the disarmament talks and to eliminate all types of weapons of mass destruction.

The Egyptian and Czechoslovak sides stressed the importance of developing the trend toward dialogue and consolidating multilateral cooperation as this creates new opportunities to make the confidence-building process and movement toward peace irreversible.

The Czechoslovak premier (?explained) Czechoslovakia's initiatives to build confidence, security, and good neighborly relations in Europe, as well as the Czechoslovak Government's efforts to promote environmental causes in Europe. The Egyptian prime minister expressed appreciation for the Czechoslovak efforts to support peace and stability in Europe.

The Egyptian prime minister reviewed developments in the Middle East and the efforts that have been made to achieve a peacaeful settlement, especially those by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. He thanked the Czechoslovak Government for its support of the Palestinian people's rights.

The Czechoslovak premier expressed his country's appreciation for the efforts President Muhammad Husni Mubarak is undertaking to achieve a peaceful and just settlement that would restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The two sides agreed on the importance of holding an international conference to reach a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

Mr Ladislav's visit took place in an atmosphere of common understanding and yielded positive results to expand the scope of contacts at all levels and in all spheres.

At the conclusion of his visit to Egypt, the Czechoslovak premier expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded him during the visit. He extended an invitation to Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to visit Czechoslovakia. The Egyptian prime minister accepted the invitation with thanks and the date for the visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC1910162289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec left Cairo this afternoon at the conclusion of a 3-day official visit to Egypt. He had been invited by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

President Husni Mubarak yesterday received Adamec, who was accompanied by Dr Sidqi.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Eng Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, minister of industry; Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy; and Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research, saw the CSSR premier off at the airport.

Baker Sends Message to 'Abd-al-Majid in Cairo

NC1910160089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the U.S. ambassador in Cairo today.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the ambassador handed him a message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker concerning the situation in the Middle East.

The U.S. ambassador said that he and 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the latest developments connected with the peace process in the Middle East. He said that during the meeting, which he described as useful and good, the two sides exchanged information and explained their points of view. The ambassador said that 'Abd-al-Majid and Baker are interested in pushing the peace efforts forward. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid on Peace, Economic Situation

NC1910204389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1811 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that Egypt and all other Arab countries in the Middle East are working for the establishment of peace and stability in the region.

During a meeting with members of the Egyptian-American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo, he said that Egypt and all other Arab countries hope the United States will contribute to the fulfillment of the aspirations of the region's peoples. He noted the U.S. role in achieving prosperity in this part of the world.

'Abd-al-Majid spoke about Egypt's peace efforts and pointed out that the intifadah has changed many minds within Israel. He said the intifidah has had very significant political repercussions and noted the radical change in the PLO's policy. This policy, he noted, was expressed by the Palestine National Council in November when it accepted UN Resolution 242 on the partition of Palestine and Israel's right to live within secure borders, and by the PLO's renunciation of terrorism.

'Abd-al-Majid also praised the U.S. decision to open a dialogue with the PLO.

He affirmed that Egypt has never been opposed to the election plan proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. However, he said, Egypt requested explanations

through President Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan, noting that these points are not an alternative to Shamir's plan.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed to President George Bush's announcement of four principles on the Palestinian issue during President Mubarak's visit to Washington in February. These principles called for an end to the occupation, recognition of the Palestinians' political rights, guaranteeing Israel's security, and the convocation of an international conference to resolve the Palestinian issue. He emphasized that Israel must choose between land and peace.

'Abd-al-Majid spoke about the discussions currently under way on opening a dialogue in Cairo between the Palestinians and the Israelis, stressing that there are two obstacles to this dialogue: the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda.

He stressed Egypt's support for the Palestinians' right to select their delegation and said that this delegation should include representatives from both inside and outside the occupied territories. He disclosed that Israel has rejected attempts to resolve this issue.

He said there is a serious desire on the part of the U.S. Administration and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to convene such a meeting in Cairo shortly.

Commenting on the economic situation in Egypt, 'Abd-al-Majid warned against the danger of forcing Egypt to take steps that might harm social peace in the country through reform measures which may harm low-income groups. He said that a delegation from the IMF and the World Bank is expected in Egypt shortly and expressed the hope that an agreement will be reached with the IMF.

He pointed out that Egypt is implementing economic reforms. However, he said, these reforms should be gradual.

He affirmed that Egypt's peace efforts are contributing to the stability of the entire region. He noted the importance of the U.S. participation in economic investments in Egypt, adding that he hoped that U.S. markerts will be open to Egyptian products.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid then answered a number of questions from the audience.

Asked about Egyptian-Libyan relations, he stressed that the two countries genuinely desire to consolidate bilateral ties in all fields. He noted the 14 points agreed upon at the conclusion of President Husni Mubarak's talks with Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tubruq 2 days ago.

Commenting on the U.S. efforts to resolve the Middle East problem, he said: We ask the United States to increase its efforts. Israel must give something to achieve peace, since it would benefit most from peace.

On the efforts to solve the Lebanese problem, 'Abd-al-Majid voiced his hope that the Arab tripartite committee's efforts will succeed, and he reiterated Egypt's stand on this issue, which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

On relations with Syria, he affirmed that numerous visits between delegations from both countries have been exchanged. He said that, despite differences in their views on certain politial issues, relations between the two countries are good and that the atmosphere between Cairo and Damascus has improved.

The meeting was attended by a number of political figures and Egyptian and American businessmen.

At the beginning of the meeting, U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner welcomed the restoration of Egypt's position in the Middle East and noted the strong ties between the American and Egyptian peoples.

Further on Libyan-Egyptian Relations, Talks

'Abd-al-Majid on Talks

NC1810151989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said today that the meetings between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have been very successful. He noted that these meetings are a step toward further cooperation between Egypt and Libya.

'Abd-al-Majid was member of the delegation that accompanied President Mubarak during his talks with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq.

People's Assembly Figure Comments

NC2010102889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0756 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the People's Assembly, has stressed that the fraternal meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq is a positive step toward strengthening bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries and fraternal peoples.

In a statement to MENA, Dr 'Abdallah said that the restoration of normal relations between Arab countries, particularly following Egypt's return to the Arabs and the Arab return to Egypt, is proof of President Mubarak's successful policy which is based on building bridges with all Arab brothers on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in the domestic affairs of any country.

Dr 'Abdallah pointed out that the talks held in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq are a new starting-point for bilateral

cooperation in various areas and an important step toward unifying and strengthening Arab ranks in the service of the causes of Arab and Muslim nations. He expressed hope that this will mark the beginning of better and more amicable relations between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples, especially since Libya is a neighboring country linked to Egypt with historical and fraternal ties.

Correcting State of 'Abnormality'

JN1910082489 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Oct 89 p 1, 2

[Column by Mahfuz al-Ansari: "The Marsa Matruh Meeting-the End of the State of Abnormality]

[Text] We cannot read the dimensions of the Marsa Matruh meeting between Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi away from the general Arab situation or the regional and international situations.

What concerns us, however, is the connection between this meeting and the Arab situation and the Egyptian effort to end the state of abnormality, endless waiting, tension, and confrontation which has taken control of the Arab world and determined its conduct and relations throughout the last period.

Within the framework of this introduction and seen from the perspective of reading the repercussions of the Marsa Matruh meeting, we could say that correcting the state of abnormality between Cairo and Tripoli and clearing the atmosphere from tensions, misunderstandings, and divisions are, in their entirety, the next to the last episode in the Egyptian march to clear the entire Egyptian-Arab atmosphere of deficiencies and related addenda, hampering the meetings, and stopping interaction.

There remains the Syrian episode, and I believe there is nothing to hinder or delay, at least from the Egyptian point of view, embarking on this episode, for which I hope we will not have to wait too long.

If here I am concentrating on the need to end the abnormal Arab state,—which has governed and directed relations for over 10 years, especially in its Egyptian-Arab aspect—it is because we are in need of an example of Arab ability to agree despite the conflict, and the ability to cooperate despite the differences in the ruling systems and plurality of opinion and action.

When we have such an example, which is being achieved with patience and care and continues to be achieved with wisdom, forgiveness, and far-sightedness, when we have such an example where Egypt represents the pillar and base, then this example can be generalized all over the Arab situation.

This example can be transferred to the hotbeds of Arab tension and inter-Arab confrontation until Arab peace reigns and Arab solidarity returns. Arab cooperation then begins—at least on common issues—to replace the present general agreement on principles.

The Egyptian example in ending the state of abnormality in Egyptian-Arab relations and between one state and another, will inevitably move to the rest of the nation, in the east between Syria and Lebanon, and Syria and Iraq, and between the two Yemens.

The Arab Maghreb countries proceeded down the same path of reconciliation, removing tensions, and ending the state of abnormality. They set up a cooperation council on the points joining them despite those dividing them.

There is no longer an acceptable or reasonable reason urging the preservation of the hotbeds of crisis as they are, unless it is a suspect reason from the inside or outside.

At any rate, the Marsa Matruh meeting is a new step down Arab Egypt's march toward reconciliation, understanding, and cooperation.

The Matruh meeting affirms the Egyptian idea and philosophy of rule followed by Mubarak since he assumed power, which is that he does not interfere in the issues of anyone and does not allow anyone to interfere in his internal issues.

It is a philosophy of rule based on frankness and an open heart for the sake of cooperation in the areas of meeting and agreement, which are huge and unlimited. He left the other areas of difference in opinion, course, and ruling system to be settled by time or the experiences of nations or rulers.

We live in an age where politics and international cooperation are necessities of life and laws of the age.

The age of blind commitment in international relations and politics, whether fully supportive or against, has been chased away to the ends of the earth and time.

The age of reconciliation and reformation of Arab and non-Arab international relations that we are experiencing today is not the age of one side's victory over another, or one side twisting the arm of another, or this side giving in to the other side's ideas.

It is the age of a new vision with new laws and regulations based on cooperation, mutual dependency, agreeing to disagree, peace, and reconciliation. It is an age which needs an open mind, open heart, and good intentions.

This age needs a creative and innovative mind, deep insight into the unkown, which opens the horizons of the future without any bonds, ties, or contracts.

This is the meaning of the Matruh meeting, and this is its goal. I do not believe that the Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi meeting will be buried in the past as much as it will concentrate on the future, the relations and cooperation between peoples, and guarantee of the continuation of these relations away from the influences of politics and differences in opinion and activity.

The Marsa Matruh meeting ends and releases the next to the last episode of the state of abnormality which governed Egyptian-Arab relations for a long period of time. It has opened the road wide before a new age full of hope, action, and cooperation with an open heart and mind.

Papers Welcome Meeting

NC1810092689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0622 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH have welcomed the meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, noting that the meeting proves that any problem between two Arab countries can be solved by quiet dialogue and direct understanding.

In an editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that the Mubarak-Al-Qadhdhafi meeting comes at a time many believed that the differences between Egypt and Libya would become deeper. However, Egypt's balanced policy has frustrated the hopes of those who were counting on more tension between Cairo and Tripoli.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes the close relations that existed between Egypt and Libya in the past, noting that on several occasions Egypt supported the Libyan people in their struggle against foreign occupation and supplied them with arms and volunteers.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR stresses that the rapport between Egypt and Libya is a gain for the two countries and for the Arab nation as a whole because it closes a gap in the Arab ranks and strengthens the efforts to restore solidarity and unity, which are a dear Arab demand.

In an editorial entitled "The Meeting of Brothers Strengthens Arab Solidarity," AL-JUMHIRIYAH says the meeting has been welcomed by most of the Arab capitals, which consider it an important step toward strengthening Arab solidarity, unifying Arab ranks, and increasing the effectiveness of joint Arab action in dealing with current issues.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the talks between the two Arab leaders have proved that Arab solidarity must be placed above all differences. It adds that the Marsa Matruh and Tubruq meetings between Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi will remove the artificial discord between two Arab countries. More unites Arabs than separates them, especially after the success achieved by the regional Arab groupings, in the formation of two of which Egypt and Libya played key roles.

Daily Praises 'Understanding'

NC1910082989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR praises the broad Egyptian-Libyan understanding reached during the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq and the resulting cooperation agreements between the two countries. In its editorial today, the paper describes these talks and their outcome as a turning point in relations between the two fraternal countries. The talks are a glowing landmark that will dissipate the darkness that shrouded these relations for a great many years and robbed the two peoples of opportunities that could have greatly benefited them.

AL-AKHBAR asserts that there are innumerable fields for cooperation between Cairo and Tripoli which can result in a form of integration and a further cementing of bonds now that the chance for a good atmosphere has arisen. The paper hopes that quick and serious action will be taken to make up for what has been lost and to give both peoples tangible and crucial evidence of what sincere cooperation can offer two neighboring countries with a common religion, language, and heritage. Cooperation can provide great opportunities to enhance historical ties and set an example for Arab action that is aimed primarily at exploiting resources and potential in the interest of the Arab nation.

The paper points out that the 10 agreements signed by Egypt and Libya involve large areas that face no obstacles and aim to assist development in both countries. These agreements will also open the door for other fields of cooperation, further rapprochement, and greater cohesion between the two peoples and enhance their aspirations for a brighter future. In addition, the agreements will increase employment opportunities for citizens of both countries and combine expertise and resources to promote joint projects to bolster both countries' economies.

Concluding, AL-AKHBAR says that what is required now is to immediately begin to implement these agreements to demonstrate the advantages of Arab cooperation within a framework of common desire and genuine intentions.

'Abd-al-Majid 'Indignant' Over Israeli Conditions

JN1810212889 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Oct 89 p 22

[Text] Cairo—High-level Egyptian sources have informed AL-WATAN that, during their meeting on Saturday [as published], Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir conveyed to Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid a message from Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. The message contained a number of conditions for holding a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians and Israel's approval of a meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state. The sources added that Israel made it a condition that the Palestinian delegation be composed of figures from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip so that the delegation could express the real feelings within the Palestinian ranks. The Arens message said that the supervision of the elections is an Israeli concern. However, the message added, Israel would approve the involvement of both Egypt and the United States in

supervising the elections as observers. The message added that the Israeli plan is all that Israel can give to advance the peace process in the region. The message requested that Egypt continue the dialogue with Israel after the holding of the three-way meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state, so that an agreement can be secured on implementing the election process on a basis acceptable to Israel. The message reiterated Israel's rejection of any role for the PLO in these meetings. However, Egypt can consult with Palestinian figures inside the occupied territories on the Israeli ideas, the message said.

The sources went on to say that Egypt voiced its indignation with the Israeli conditions. The sources quoted 'Abd-al-Majid as saying that the peace process depends on clearing away all obstructionist conditions. The sources indicated that 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his indignation with the Israeli intransigence in a telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last week.

AL-AHRAM on Shamir's Rejection of Proposal

NC1810100189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has expressed its bewilderment over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's treatment of any initiative designed to promote peace efforts in the Middle East.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says Shamir has rejected U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for a meeting between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and Baker himself in Washington to discuss and improve the prospects for holding a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

AL-AHRAM says that Shamir justified his rejection by saying that "no plan and no political maneuver of any kind will lead Israel to meet with the PLO." By rejecting the U.S. proposal, Shamir is indicating that he considers it part of a plan or a political maneuver to make Israel meet with the PLO.

AL-AHRAM explains that the U.S. proposal which Washington conveyed to Egypt and Israel is in the form of a five-point plan that contains no direct or indirect reference to the PLO.

AL-AHRAM says Shamir's rejection of the U.S. plan means that as long as such a plan comes from abroad there is absolutely no possibility of such a dialogue even if Israel were to have the final say regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation. In the most unlikely event that Israel does agree to "speak" with the Palestinians, it will accept only those whom it deems fit to talk to. This is virtually impossible, as the stands of the Paslestinians inside the occupied territories have proved.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that Israel ties the knots and wants others to try to untie them according to its wishes.

Criticizes Israeli Peace 'Attitude'

NC1910113689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM criticizes the Israeli attitude toward the proposals aimed at resolving the Middle East problem, including the Israeli proposal itself, and criticizes Israel for backtracking to block all lines of communications to a solution. Israel thus takes everything into its own hands, making itself the sole party entitled to choose the plan, time, venue, negotiators, and the course of action.

In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM says that when Israel faced the recent positive developments, beginning with the 10 Egyptian points and the proposal to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo to discuss the prerequisites to Shamir's electoral plan, it insisted that any dialogue or bilateral talks be confined only to the Israeli plan, regardless of any other proposal, because the plan is without any amendment or chance to discuss other issues. Thus, Israel retreated from its own principle which it adhered to for many years; that is, bilateral talks with any party should be open and without preconditions.

AL-AHRAM points out that Israel even rejected the U.S. 5-point proposal because the proposal states that the election plan should be the topic of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue without ruling out the possibility of raising other issues with the Palestinian side.

AL-AHRAM stresses that the Israeli rejection aims to block any avenue that may eventually lead to dealing with the PLO, even if the dealing is with Palestinian personalities acceptable to the PLO.

Concluding, AL-AHRAM says that Israel's categorical rejection of any peace proposal is intended to make the other sides despair of any practical opportunity to negotiate, and consequently, to force them, particularly the Palestinians, to reject and, perhaps, renounce current moderate positions in favor of more intransigent stands. This will enable Israel to justify new, harsher measures against the intifadah and to blockade the PLO internationally and portray it as intransigent.

Editorial on Avoiding Failure of Peace Efforts

JN1810122089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Launchpad"]

[Text] The most important byproduct of the recent efforts to activate the Palestinian issue and place it on the road to a solution are the contacts that began where efforts had left off. In other words, there have been attempts to keep the moves going. Here we find that the situation is not bad because despite the frustration,

issues have not returned to square one and have not fallen behind the advanced points that the above efforts have reached but are in fact desperately trying to overcome the obstacles presented by objections and to reach more stable ground.

It is a very difficult situation indeed but this is not cause for despair as long as the parties concerned are prepared to continue the moves where the recent efforts left off before the latest obstacles emerged. The Shamir election plan continues to exist, the Palestinian agreement in principle on his plan is not ruled out, and the Egyptian 10 points are still presented as a launchpad despite the fact that the Israeli Inner Cabinet rejected them. From all of these elements, new defensive [as published] U.S. proposals, which are not alternatives to these elements, have emerged. These proposals are trying to bring together the positive points in the Israeli and Egyptian positions within a framework through which a dialogue between the Palestinians and Israelis can be generated.

Leaving aside the formulas presented to realize this dialogue—some of which have so far not been officially crystallized pending results of diplomatic contacts such as the formula of holding a tripartite meeting in Washington among the U.S. secretary of state, the Israeli foreign minister, and the Egyptian foreign minister—the basic point here is that issues should not be allowed to branch out to the extent that the bases are weakened. The bases themselves are only a means of groping for a solution. We should not sail away from the original port under the pretext of searching for secure methods to reach that port, thus avoiding plunging issues into new oceans of troubles.

Therefore, we at least must know and ensure the new paths and their destinations. For example, if the formula of the tripartite meeting finds general acceptance, it will be important to realize a certain amount of progress that might give such a meeting the opportunity of success. The same may be applied to other formulas. If we are confronted with the failure of these formulas or one of them, the most important and perhaps the only attention will be devoted to avoiding its errors in order to reactivate it. This makes it the most important issue, consuming both time and efforts. Indeed, this is what Israel wants because it suits the requirements of its long-standing strategy—namely, drowning the basic issues in peripheral ones, giving it the necessary time to kill the intifadah.

The tackling of all issues must be carefully considered in terms of moves, time, and results.

Meeting Proposed To Discuss Peace Plans

JN1810094289 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Oct 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Series of Points"]

[Text] Five American points and another 5 Palestinian points appeared following the 10 Egyptian points that were aimed at activating the Palestinian issue. It is understood that the U.S. proposals are presented to the Egyptian and Israeli sides as an attempt to reconcile them regarding the holding of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo. These points are expected to be the subject of talks among the three capitals probably in a proposed meeting of the three foreign ministers in Washington. As for the Palestinian proposals, which are regarded as the first reaction of its kind following the latest Egyptian endeavors, they will most probably be the main topic of discussion in the U.S.-PLO dialogue session scheduled in Tunis within the coming days.

These proposals constitute frameworks on which agreement in principle will be effected through negotiations with the aim of holding the Israeli-Palestinian meeting, which will be the first of its kind. Therefore, these proposals constitute the main points of reference by which each side will try to define its attitude toward the practical developments so as to find common ground for launching the process.

Undoubtedly, these proposals in themselves have been one of the results of the Egyptian effort represented by the 10 points, which were tantamount to questions aimed at clarifying matters and rendering the Shamir election plan more acceptable to the parties concerned—an issue which must be of concern to Israel although it initially rejected them during its Inner Cabinet meeting. Nevertheless, the accelerating events and the Palestinian people's proposals, which came in the form of reactions, demonstrate that the march is continuing despite this partial frustration, and that the situation has not ended in an absolute deadlock.

The U.S. proposals seem tractable [salisah] to a great extent. These proposals leave Egypt the opportunity to hold negotiations with the Palestinians aimed at allowing them to form their delegation without having Egypt speak on their behalf. This is perfectly in line wih Egypt's position and, indeed, in line with the first point in the Palestinian proposals, which gives the PLO the right to form and name the delegation. Here, of course, Israel will raise its traditional objection by saying that it does not recognize the PLO as the Palestinians' representative. Nevertheless, this can be easily dealt with by substituting the phrase "the Palestinian side" for the PLO since it is implied that no acceptable Palestinian side will be formed without PLO consent, even if it remains behind the scenes.

The U.S. proposals stipulate that discussion during the dialogue will concentrate on the Israeli election plan. However, the Palestinians can raise other issues. This does not contradict with the point in the Palestinian proposals that emphasizes the Palestinian side's adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative, which is based on international legitimacy, and which stresses the Palestinian side's right to discuss this. Moreover, there is the basic argument that the dialogue will be a preliminary phase leading to the international peace conference.

Thus, the ball returns to the Israeli court.

Information Minister Leaves for Jeddah

NC1910153889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left for Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today to attend the 2-day meeting of the executive office of the Islamic states information ministers which will open on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Zambian National Council Speaker Departs Cairo

NC2010092989 Cairo MENA in English 2326 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 19 (MENA)—The Zambian speaker of the National Council left here tonight after a five-day visit during which he delivered a message to President Husni Mubarak from President Kenneth Kaunda.

He also held talks with Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub and Shura (Advisory) Council speaker Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi on means of stepping up bilateral parliamentary relations.

Dr Hilmi said the meetings were a completion of talks between the two countries in cultural, economic, and social cooperation.

AAPSO Delegation Departs for Moscow 18 Oct

NC1810175289 Cairo MENA in English 1645 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Cairo, Oct 18 (MENA)—A delegation from the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization [AAPSO] led by its chairman Dr Murad Ghalib left here today for Moscow for a several days visit to the Soviet Union.

In a pre-departure statement, Dr Ghalib said that the organization is to hold a seminar on Friday on the developing countries.

The seminar aims at briefing the Soviet leaderships of the circumstances of the developing states so as they could coordinate their policy to cope with these circumstances within the context of the policy of perestroyka adopted by the Soviet Union.

He added that a number of prominent authors and intellectuals are to take part in this seminar.

MENA, PANA Sign Distribution Agreement

NC1810210289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1933 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif witnessed the signing of an agreement today between the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY [MENA] and the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA) under which the Egyptian agency will transmit and distribute PANA's Arabic-language bulletin through its own network and offices in the Arab and African countries. Mustafa Najib, chairman of MENA's board of directors and chief editor, signed the agreement on behalf of the Egyptian agency and Auguste Mpassi-Muba, PANA's director general, signed for the African agency.

According to the agreement, MENA will receive on its network and technical equipment the bulletin which PANA transmits in English and French. MENA will translate the bulletin into Arabic and then retransmit it to the Arab and African countries. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Mediterranean NATO Exercise

LD1910165789 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution sent a message to the presidents of the Mediterranean countries which took part in the NATO exercise in the Mediterranean. The message expresses great astonishment at the participation of these countries in a huge military exercise in the Mediterranean with a superpower, a matter which contravenes the aspirations and hopes of the peoples of the region that such a sea will be a sea of peace and security free from military exercises and foreign fleets.

The message stresses, furthermore, that such exercises have dashed our hopes of keeping the Mediterranean free of such dangers. We do not, however, oppose exercises carried out by Mediterranean countries, whether collectively or singularly, as it is their right to do so. But, for the superpowers to join them is against our security and safety as well as our peoples' aspirations. Such exercises have taken place at a time when steps have been made toward an understanding of the seriousness of the presence of the superpower fleets in the Mediterranean. The message insists that such exercises have thrown into disorder all the efforts of the progressive and peace-loving forces exerted for the sake of peace and security in the Mediterranean.

The brother points out in his message that the criminal and tragic downing of the Italian DC-9 aircraft on 27 June 1980, which claimed the lives of dozens of innocent people, was the result of aggression and the presence of foreign bases and fleets in the Mediterranean. He also points out the American aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah where dozens of innocent civilians were victimized, not to mention the danger caused by the presence of the superpower fleets and bases for air and maritime navigation, trade, tourism, and ordinary contacts between southern and northern parts of the Mediterranean.

The message insists that the Great Jamahiriyah, while it is determined to achieve peace in the Mediterranean, will ally itself with all peace-seeking forces in order to attain such a goal. It will, moreover, struggle by the side

of those peace-loving forces in order to remove the superpowers from the Mediterranean, hoping that such countries will comply with the aspirations of those peoples and any appeal for peace. It seeks as well that NATO exercises will be held in the North Atlantic and that military adventures by the superpowers in the Mediterranean will not be repeated for the sake of a vital and common interest in harmony with the aspirations of the Mediterranean peoples.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Phone King Hassan

LD1710212389 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a telephone conversation today with Moroccan King Hassan II.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Meets With Libya's Al-Humaydi

LD1710150389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 17 Oct (JANA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in fraternal Sudan, yesterday received Brother Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi as soon as he arrived in Khartoum on a visit which takes place within the framework of the pan-Arab tour he is making of the states of the Arab homeland at the behest of the brother leader of the revolution.

During the meeting, which lasted nearly 2 hours and was held at the People's Palace, Brother Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi handed General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, a pan-Arab message from the brother leader of the revolution.

General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir emphasized to Brother Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi his total support for all the contents and proposals carried in the pan-Arab message of the brother leader of the revolution. He also called for the speedy implementation of the thesis of unity put forward in the message of the brother leader of the revolution and for a strategic Arab plan of action to put the contents of the message into effect. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir: Political Parties 'Out of Question'

EA1810145289 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1941 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] The president of the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council], Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, assured that the resolutions of the national dialogue conference will be the base for building the new Sudan. This came in his meeting yesterday evening with the Kenyan professor, Ali Mazrui, in the presence of the deputy president of the NSRCC, Staff Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih.

Gen al-Bashir stated that Professor Mazrui had questioned several questions on the future of the conference's resolutions and the possibility of establishing the Sudanese political parties. Gen al-Bashir said that he had informed the professor that the establishment of the political parties at the moment is out of the question.

On the detained politicians, Gen al-Bashir pointed to the several committees of investigations. He added that if anyone is found guilty, he will be presented before the court, but if there is nothing to accuse him of he will be released, unless he acted against the revolution.

It is to be recalled that Professor Mazrui came from Kenya to participate in the national dialogue on peace.

Government Receives Chinese Arms; Garang Reacts

AB1710194889 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 17 Oct 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Sudan Government has once again felt the need to explain the arrival of a consignment of long-range artillery from China. The arms are being used to reinforce the government's garrison in the southern capital, Juba. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] I've been talking to Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, a member of the ruling council and political supervisor of Equatoria Region, about the Chinese arms shipments. He claimed that the arms were not being sent to Juba in preparation for an offensive against the SPLA [Sudan People's Liberation Army]. The airlift, he said, was purely for defensive purposes. Kassiano said that if Juba had been well-stocked with arms in February this year, then the town would not have been shelled by the SPLA and lives would have been saved. He said, if we had had long-range guns, we would have fired back to prevent further shelling. Kassiano accused the SPLA of continuing to carry out unprovoked attacks in Equatoria Region. He said that last month, the SPLA ambushed a road convoy traveling between Yei and Juba, killing 12 people. He said that the SPLA had also blown up three vehicles traveling between Yei and Kaia on the border with Uganda.

He said that the SPLA was now trying to take the war to Western Equatoria, a province largely free of SPLA activity until now. He claimed that the SPLA had abducted about 300 people, including women and children and priests, and taken them away at gunpoint. Kassiano claimed that the SPLA was still holding these people. [end recording]

And despite the Sudanese Government's denials that the arms from China are for use against the SPLA rebels,

there is no doubt that the strengthening of the Juba garrison is hardly likely to speed up the peace process. The SPLA's leader, John Garang, is currently in Kenya where he held a meeting with President Moi. Collin Blayne asked Colonel Garang what he makes of the government's claims that the arms are for peace, not war.

[Begin recording] [Garang] From our own intelligence sources emanating from our versions on that, yes, they are preparing for war, and the press has also assisted us, and the press has said that they are preparing for war, and you have all sorts of sources of information. We know that they are preparing for war. If you invite guerrillas to your capital and you say, you come and talk; if you don't then what? The answer is obvious. If we don't turn up, if the guerrillas don't turn up in Khartoum, then they must be fought.

[Blayne] Are you preparing for war also?

[Garang] We are always prepared for war. This is the business of a guerrilla. A guerrilla must be ever-ready for any military situation. So, we don't need to prepare for war; we are ever-ready, we have been every-ready since May. We only want peace; that's why we have not been fighting. [end recording]

Police Official Praises 'Enhanced Legal Powers'

EA1710201089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], this morning attended a ceremony mounted by the police at the 6 April Gardens to commission the second consignment of 106 police vehicles furnished with radio communications equipment. The ceremony was addressed by Staff Brigadier Faysal Ali Abu Salih, member of the NSRCC and interior minister, who said this support would serve to enhance the security services by facilitating police force communication, thus equipping them to carry out their duties in terms of maintaining security. Members of the police force will also receive training.

The ceremony was also addressed by police Lieutenant General 'Uthman al-Shafi, director general of police, who praised the decree which has been issued affording the police enhanced legal powers in the course of performing their duties. He stressed that the decree would distinctly enhance the performance of the police in carrying out their duties. He said that this support made it incumbent upon the police to render outstanding service.

The ceremony was also addressed by Mr Muhyi al-Din 'Uthman, director of the taxi cooperative project, who stressed their readiness to supply the police with any spares required. It is noteworthy that these vehicles were bought from Turkey through the taxi cooperative project. They were paid for through the free banking market. They will be distributed to the central security services, police in the national capital, the central and the western regions, and the police hospital. [passage omitted]

IMF Talks To Open 17 Oct at Planning Agency

EA1710202689 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Khartoum, 17 October—The technical committee preparing for the Sudan-IMF meeting, headed by the finance minister, Dr Sayyid Ali Zaki, yesterday continued meetings with the visiting IMF technical mission. The IMF-Sudan official talks will start today at the planning agency to discuss Sudan's economic policies. The negotiations will last until 25 October.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Receives Somali President's Envoy

LD1710111489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Hamid Karoui received yesterday afternoon, Monday, Salah Muhammad Ali, head of the foreign relations department of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party and special envoy of President Mohamed Siad Barre to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The envoy handed the prime minister a message from the Somali president to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He also briefed him about current issues in Somalia and the current efforts to achieve national reconciliation and to establish the security and safety of the country.

They also discussed during the meeting a number of issues concerning the consolidation of bilateral relations.

Western Sahara

Polisario Resumes 'Wide Scale' Military Activity

LD1410171889 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Oct 89

[Text] Hafez Boujoumaah, 14 Oct (APS)—The Polisario's resumption of wide scale military operations in the Western Sahara reflects the Saharans "caution and disappointment" in relation to Morocco's "sincere political will" to continue the dialogue and direct negotiations which began in Marrakech between the Moroccan monarch and a high-level Polisario Front delegation. The Polisario Front has not stopped redoubling its efforts, which indicate good will through its total cessation for a month of its military operations before the taking of a unilateral decision to free 200 Moroccan prisoners whom Morocco refuses to receive.

A Saharan official has explained that the recent statements by the Moroccan monarch and "his frequent vacillation," despite his commitment to talk anew with the Polisario front, declared on several occasions, have

pushed us to resort once again to military action. He added that the Saharan people, who will not abandon the ideals of independence and freedom, are determined to continue their march toward independence, out of their belief in the justness of their cause and the UN support for it.

The Saharans believe that the Moroccan monarch's refusal to negotiate directly with the Polisario on the measures for the implementation of the UN and OAU peace plan, despite the urging of the UN secretary general to complete the decolonization of the Western Sahara, may "destroy" what the United Nations and the OAU had built. This rejection is seen by the Saharans as a severe blow to the efforts of the Maghreban countries which strive for a new era of understanding, cooperation, and harmony in place of fighting and tension. The Saharan leaders have confirmed anew their "sincere desire for the achievement of peace", while highlighting their determination to "continue the armed struggle irrespective of the sacrifices."

And through the marking of the historic 12 October, the day of national unity, yesterday, Thursday [as received] the Polisario replied indirectly" to those who still believe that they are capable of splitting our ranks or imposing capitulation which others have failed to impose in other places."

Saharan Statement Issued on Hamburg Talks

LD1710084789 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] A statement issued by the Saharan Information Ministry today included that the 15th session of the conference for coordinating solidarity with the Saharan people, held in Hamburg 13-15 October, stressed the importance of the immediate resumption of dialogue between the Saharan Republic and Morocco in order to reach an agreement on the arrangements of the self-determination referendum.

The conference expressed concern at the Moroccan rejection of the resumption of direct negotiations.

The statement added that the conference regards the self-determination and independence referendum as a good method to establish just and permanent peace in the region, pointing out that this referendum should be held in accordance with UN and OAU resolutions.

The statement concluded that the conference expressed its full support to the Saharan people and ratified a working program aimed at giving more aid to the Saharan people.

Bahrain

Amir Holds Further Talks With Nicaragua's Ortega

JN1910104089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salaman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, this morning received Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and the delegation accompanying him, in the presence of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister.

A new round of talks was held which focused on prospects of cooperation between the two countries; current Gulf, Arab, and international affairs; and issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Majid Jawad al-Jishi, minister of public works, electricity, and water and head of the escort mission; and Shaykh 'Ali Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah, assistant interior under secretary for passports and immigration affairs.

The Nicaraguan president arrived in Manama Tuesday and is scheduled to conclude his visit today.

Ortega Departs 19 Oct

JN1910104889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega left Manama at noon today for Berlin after a 3-day official visit to Bahrain at the end of a tour that took him also to Kuwait and Qatar. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Receives Djibouti Minister With Message

LD1810111589 Kuwait KUNA in English 0952 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 18 (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah Wednesday received a message from Djibouti's President Gouled Hassan.

The message was delivered by visiting Foreign Minister Bahdon Farah Moumin who was received by the amir today.

Present at the audience was State Minister for Foreign Affairs Samud Muhammad al-Usaymi.

Defense Minister on Weapons Development, GCC

JN1710174089 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 14 Oct 89 p 3

[By 'Amid al-Shanti]

[Excerpts] Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has declared that Kuwait is now developing its Armed Forces and arms of various types, in addition to training the employees in the Defense Ministry.

In an interview with AL-QABAS, Shaykh Nawwaf added that Kuwait's philosophy is to vary its weapon sources. We have weapons from both East and West and do not accept being at the mercy of anyone. Our relations with other countries are distinguished and strong.

Shaykh Nawwaf affirmed that the amir's peace and goodwill trip strengthened Kuwait's international role and opened new doors in developing relations between Kuwait and these countries.

Shaykh Nawwaf affirmed that the Palestinian intifadah is the most honorable phenomenon in our contemporary history. We support it in various ways. He said that Kuwait has played, and still plays, a major role in returning life to normal in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

On Kuwait's weapon-buying policy, the defense minister said that Kuwait's philosophy is based on varying the sources of our weapons since we have weapons from both East and West and we will not be at the mercy of anyone.

He said that Kuwait's policy is to establish relations with all countries of the world. We do not follow anyone. Our policy is clear to everyone. He added that Kuwait has started developing its weapons and Armed Forces fighters in various fields to make the forces a strong barrier against anyone with designs on our country or people.

He added that the implementation of many studies has begun in the military and administrative development levels.

On the visit of General Norman Schwartzkopf, the commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, Shaykh Nawwaf said that the talks centered on the situation in the Gulf and on joint cooperation.

Discussing the achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] in military coordination, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said that there will be a meeting of defense ministers in Riyadh at the beginning of the next month, before the next GCC summit, to discuss achievements made so far in coordination and military cooperation and to set new programs and plans in our cooperation.

He added that coordination between the GCC states has reached an important stage. One could say that all the resolutions and recommendations of the past meetings have been implemented.

He reaffirmed that the GCC countries are moving in the right direction to reach the goals of the Council on all

economic, political, educational, and social levels, thus manifesting the unity of destiny of the peoples in the region, including the people of our Arab nation of which we are an indivisible part. [passage omitted]

'Fahd' Armored Vehicles Received From Egypt

JN1810221089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Oct 89 0 1

[By Hisham al-Diwan]

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has said that the Defense Ministry has received a shipment of "Fahd" armored vehicles from Egypt—the armored vehicle which is entirely manufactured at Egyptian military plants. The minister added that this armored vehicle has entered operational service with the Armed Forces.

In a statement to AL-WATAN, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad expressed the conviction that Kuwait will show no reluctance in purchasing military equipment or weapons produced by Arab states if the required specifications pertaining to efficiency and effectiveness are met and if there is a need for such equipment or weapons in the army units and its three classes. He also welcomed the development and modernization of military industries. In addition, he voiced his pleasure over his forthcoming visit to Cairo in late November.

Oman

Sultan Issues Decrees Reorganizing Ministries

PM1810113589 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 11 Oct 89 p 1

[Unattributed report: "His Majesty Decrees New Water Ministry"]

[Text] Muscat—His Majesty Sultan Qabus yesterday announced the creation of a new Ministry of Water Resources with Electricity and Water Minister Khalfan Ibn-Nasir al-Wahibi as the acting minister.

All funds and documents of the Public Authority for Water Resources are to be transferred to the new ministry, his majesty stated, adding that all the other ministries concerned with water resources must function without in any way contradicting the water resources ministry's activities.

His Majesty set up the new ministry through one of five royal decrees issued yesterday.

The PAWR (Public Authority for Water Resources) is incorporated into this ministry.

A royal decree changed the title of the president of the Diwan of Royal Court to the "Minister of Diwan of Royal Court".

The Diwan of Royal Court, however, will continue to exist.

By another decree, His Majesty amended the name of Palace Office to the Ministry of Palace Office Affairs.

The President of Palace Office will now be the Minister of Palace Office Affairs.

His Majesty promoted Major General 'Ali Ibn-Majid al-Ma'mari, now the minister of palace office affairs, to the rank of lieutenant general.

The fifth decree appoints Jum'ah Ibn-Rashid Ibn-Sa'id al-Balushi as the president of royal protocol at the Diwan of Royal Protocol.

Sultan Supports Al-Qadhdhafi's Proposals

LD1510195389 Tripoli JANA in English 1820 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman, this morning received Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi at the palace of al-Ilm in Muscat. Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi delivered a pan-Arabist letter to Sultan Qabus from the leader of the revolution. The meeting lasted for two hours.

Sultan Qabus asserted to Major al-Khuwaylidi al-humaydi his support to all the proposals and items included in the letter of the leader of the revolution.

Sultan Qabus saluted unionist ideas contained in the leader's letter and he affirmed the importance of common Arab action and continuous contacts and consultations amongst Arab countries in consolidation and enhancement of Arab stance and national action.

Major al-Khuwaylidi carried a letter of reply from Sultan Qabus to the leader of the revolution's letter.

Major al-Khuwaylidi arrived in Oman this morning in a nationalist mission upon the instructions of the leader of the revolution. He was welcomed on his arrival by Malik Ibn-Sulayman al-Ma'mari the minister of housing and a number of senior government officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

Soviet Official Arrives in Sanaa for Talks

JN1810140289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] (Yuriy Ghormanin), deputy chairman of the Soviet side to the joint Yemeni-Soviet Committee for Economic Cooperation, arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit to our country. The visit will last several days.

In a statement to the SABA' news agency, the Soviet official clarified that during his visit to our country preparations will take place for the 4th round of the joint Yemeni-Soviet committee for economic and technical cooperation which will be held in Decmber to disuss horizons of joint bilateral cooperation.

On hand to receive him was brother 'Abd-al-Ghani al-'Aqil, assistent secretary of the Central Planning Body and a number of officials in the Body and the Soviet Embassy in Sanaa.

Shamir's Office Notes Discord in U.S. Remarks

TA1910112089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] U.S. President George Bush said that Washington is not interested in engaging in any confrontation with Israel and does not want to force Israel to do anything against its will. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that President Bush made these comments 2 nights ago during his telephone conversation with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Mr Shamir responded by saying that Israel likewise desires no clash with the United States. Our correspondent points out that Bush's remark came after he had learned of the prime minister's statement before the Likud faction on the possibility of tension between Israel and the United States.

Our correspondent was told by the Prime Minister's Office that these statements conflict with the State Department spokeswoman's remarks last night that the prime minister's declaration disappointed the U.S. Administration.

Shamir Sends Baker Letter Praising Efforts

TA1910181989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in which he praises the efforts the administration is making to advance peace in the Middle East. The letter also urges the secretary of state to continue with his efforts.

Our correspondent in Washington, 'Oded Ben-'Ami, reports that the letter details the prime minister's position on the issue of the meeting between Israelis and Palestinians to discuss elections in the territories.

Shamir Accused of Heightening Domestic Tension

TA1910200489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Report by political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Text] Despite the letter of explanation the prime minister sent Secretary of State Baker today, and despite the telephone call between President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir, the United States still does not accept Shamir's and Arens' reservations about Baker's initiative as an official Israeli reply. This was told to us this evening by a very senior source in Washington. The United States is certain that the prime minister has no cause for concern over the U.S. initiative for direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Washington also is unwilling to give Israel unlimited time to reply to it. The Prime Minister's Office told us this evening that Israel has already replied to the United States, and that there is no tension between the two countries.

It was reported to us from Washington, however, that the State Department remarks regarding Shamir's statement on a possible clash between Israel and the United States—which were termed damaging and disappointing—represent the point of view held by the whole administration. The administration, which had held high hopes for Shamir's initiative, is now beginning to become dubious in view of the way the prime minister is treating his own plan.

Shamir's remarks and the sharp U.S. reaction to them are raising domestic tension, since Peres and Rabin are in fact out of the political picture. They no longer believe Foreign Ministry reports. Minister Moshe Shahal, who spoke with Ministers Peres and Rabin, told us tonight that Shamir and Arens are misleading both the public and the government. He also said that Shamir and Arens should immediately begin providing true reports on our political situation because they are damaging our relations with the only true friend the State of Israel has.

U.S. Offers 'Guarantees' on Baker's Five Points

TA2010065089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev and Wolf Blitzer]

[Excerpt] The Bush administration has offered to conclude a binding bilateral understanding with Israel in order to secure Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's agreement to Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

The proposed understanding, first broached in Baker's Wednesday night conversation with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, would include American guarantees concerning Shamir's two main objections to Baker's proposals to promote an Israeli Palestinian dialogue: the non-inclusion of the PLO and the possibility that the dialogue would stray to topics besides elections in the territories.

Shamir, however, is apparently not inclined to accept the administration's offer in its present form, well-placed sources said last night. The premier, one source explained, believes that Baker's five points will inevitably lead to the creation of a PLO delegation to represent the Palestinians.

Arens is nonetheless expected to pursue the American offer in upcoming contacts with Baker, and Shamir will discuss it during his mid-November visit to Washington.

Sources in Jerusalem said last night that Baker's proposed memorandum of understanding would fulfill the same function as the 1975 memorandum concluded by then secretary of state Henry Kissinger, in which Washington undertook, among others, not to negotiate with the PLO until the organization recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced terror.

The American offer comes in the wake of an accompanying U.S. message in which Baker made it clear that there would be no change in the text of his five points. [passage omitted]

Shamir Holds 'Friendly' Conversation With Baker

TA2010081789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shamir has held a telephone conversation with the U.S. secretary of state regarding ideas for the promotion of the peace process. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the conversation, which took place yesterday, was initiated by Secretary James Baker.

The prime minister's media adviser has said the talk was a good and friendly one; he further stated that the contacts between the prime minister and Secretary Baker will continue. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Sees 'Unbridgeable Gaps' With U.S.

TA1910120789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent Arye Golan and moderator Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good afternoon, Yosi Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Shalom.

[Gay] As far back as several weeks ago, you said we were approaching the moment of truth insofar as our relations with the United States are concerned. Is this the moment of truth?

[Ben-Aharon] With your permission, I would suggest that we refrain from trying to categorize things, because any attempt to provide labels would color the truth. Perhaps if this time we try to define things in terms of facts rather than adjectives, you and the listeners will get a better understanding of the situation. Do you agree?

[Golan] Of course. What, then, are the facts, sir?

[Ben-Aharon] They are that first of all, our relations with the United States are those of allies. Even now there is activity in the area of strategic cooperation, for example, which constitutes a fundamental element in bilateral relations. This will continue. In that respect, using the term confrontation could result in some misunderstanding.

At the same time, there are differences of opinion which are part and parcel of our relations with the United States and involve political issues that are extremely important to us. In a nutshell, they include two basic fields. There are some gaps that are unbridgeable. For example, it is impossible to compromise on negotiations with the PLO, because if we accept negotiations with the PLO, this would first of all conflict with the government's basic guidelines and our political initiative, and second...

[Golan, interrupting] Is the United States suggesting that we engage in a dialogue with the PLO?

[Ben-Aharon] We are saying that the phrasing used by the United States in all the documents exchanged and in all the points creates an opening for negotiations with the PLO, which we cannot accept—again, because a compromise here is impossible. It is like being a little pregnant.

[Golan] But then we will find ourselves in the very conflict the prime minister said he was afraid of. Not that he wanted to get to that point, but he did express the fear that we might find ourselves embroiled in tension with the United States, as he told the Likud faction 2 days ago, as a result of the U.S. desire to somehow lead us to some form of talks with the PLO and our steadfast opposition to this.

[Ben-Aharon] Again, you want to drag us into definitions. I do not know precisely what the word tension means. I am saying that there are differences of opinion over the content. We must try to persuade the United States and make it understand that there are some issues which involve our very existence. They are the PLO and a Palestinian state. If the United States tries to explain that to Egypt, which is dealing with the issue on behalf of the PLO, in a bid to introduce the PLO—or Palestinians who are really PLO members in all but name—into the negotiations, we will in fact be going back to the starting point of the central problem of a Palestinian state and negotiations with the PLO.

[Gay] The question is: How far can we stretch these differences of opinion?

[Ben-Aharon] Differences of opinion have existed and will probably continue to occur in our relations with the United States, until that country and Egypt, as well as the Arabs that live among us and with whom we wish to reach a true settlement, understand that we will not compromise on the issue of the PLO leading to a Palestinian state.

[Golan] Mr Ben-Aharon, you must have noticed the differences in the statements made by President Bush and Secretary of State Baker regarding Israel and the current political issues. We have just reported that Bush assured the prime minister 2 days ago that the United States does not want a confrontation and will not force us to do anything we do not want to do. Secretary of State Baker, on the other hand, dispatched the State Department spokeswoman—his spokeswoman—to criticize the prime minister and say that his remarks before the Likud faction were not very helpful and disappointing. Are the two coordinating, or is one playing good cop and the other bad cop?

[Ben-Aharon] Do you want me to explain the workings or relations between the President and the secretary of state and the spokeswoman? There are nuances and modes of operation that derive from their different responsibilities. She was forced to answer a correspondent who asked her whether there is any tension. She replied that what the prime minister said did not help. At the same time, these labels are neither here nor there. It is the content that is the important thing, and this is what I tried to explain to you.

[Golan] And you believe that we can avoid a confrontation, if we steadfastly adhere to our positions?

[Ben-Aharon] I think that the United States must understand that this is really something that involves our very existence and that we will not be able to live with an Arab country controlled by the PLO at our doorstep, just beyond Jerusalem and Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. If the United States understands that we cannot give in on this issue, then it will comprehend that the peace process can be promoted without inserting the PLO into the equation, and without trying to lead to any formulas that incorporate the danger that a Palestinian state will be established in the territories. I believe that this is possible. What is necessary and desirable, of course, is for Israel to talk in one voice—and unity is an extremely important asset to Israel—and make sure that no differing, conflicting tunes emanate from Israel. When this occasionally happens, it is regrettable; but the United States must realize that there is strong determination in Israel on issues of vital importance.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and thank you, too, Arye Golan.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

Labor Wants Inner Cabinet To Review Baker Plan

TA2010082289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Labor Party ministers intend to raise Baker's five-point initiative in the Inner Cabinet prior to the prime minister's departure for Washington in mid-November. This was reported by our political correspondent Natan Gutman. Our correspondent further quotes Labor ministers as saying that because the five points have never been discussed in any government forum, the prime minister's rejection of the principles of Baker's plan is invalid.

U.S. Experts Reportedly To Examine Syrian MiG

JN1910160089 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 18 Oct 89 p 1

[Text] Washington—A group of Pentagon experts arrived in Israel yesterday morning to join in the examination of the Syrian MiG-23 fighter and interceptor whose pilot Major Bassam al-'Adl defected with the plane to Israel last Wednesday, Pentagon sources revealed. The sources noted that the U.S. group is composed of five Pentagon military experts.

The sources also said that an agreement to dispatch the group to Israel was reached following a telephone conversation between U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Rabin last week.

The sources said that the U.S. experts will stay in Israel until 5 November, adding that two senior CIA officers will arrive in Israel later this week to interrogate the Syrian pilot on security and strategic matters of concern to the United States.

Arens Sees 'Significant' PLO Political Gains

TA1910202789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens today advised that we should be honest and admit the PLO has gained some significant political achievements. The PLO had presented initiatives, and Israel had no choice but to present one of its own to abate the process of political deterioration in which Israel found itself. Minister Arens made these remarks in an address before Likud movement veterans.

Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that Arens stressed that one should be aware of the dangers inherent in moving toward a peace initiative. He accused Alignment members of shuffling the cards and then folding before the game started, thus damaging the political process.

Arens Plans Economic, Political Visit to Japan

TA1810121789 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Oct 89 p 3

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Efrayim Davidi]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will visit Japan in approximately 2 weeks. His visit will be devoted to economic and political talks. This was reported yesterday by the Foreign Ministry spokesman. Arens will be the guest of the Japanese foreign minister, and, during the course of his visit, he will meet other state leaders.

According to Dr Ya'aqov Kohen, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director general for economic affairs [name and title as published], the visit is immensely important against the backdrop of the partial success scored in the recent introduction of Israeli products into the Japanese market. Kohen emphasized last night that Israeli economists are beginning to realize what the potential of the Japanese market is and to comprehend its modus operandi. Consequently, deals between Israeli industries and small- and medium-sized Japanese industries are gradually being formed.

Most of the Israeli exports to Japan involve cut diamonds; the remaining exports comprise chemicals, metals, electrical and medical equipment, calibrated precision tools, and food. The volume of Israeli exports to Japan (excluding diamonds) last year amounted to approximately $150 million.

Overall, Egyptian exports (including diamonds) last year reached approximately $675 million, compared with some $123 million 10 years ago. Israeli imports from Japan in 1988 amounted to approximately $478 million.

Peres Recovering From Urinary Tract Infection

TA2010055789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Vice Premier Shim'on Peres is to remain hospitalized in 'Afula until the beginning of next week. The deputy director of the hospital, Dr Kantor, says Peres is recovering well from an infection in the urinary tract.

El Al, Aeroflot Pact on Moscow-Tel Aviv Flights

TA1810162189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] El Al and Aeroflot, the official USSR aviation company, have signed an agreement for the establishment of routine Moscow-Tel Aviv flights. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that the agreement was signed this afternoon in Moscow.

El Al Director General Refa'el Harlev has said that the flights, which will leave once a week, will be on the basis of reciprocity. The first El Al plane will leave for Moscow at the beginning of 1990.

Economy Shows 'Encouraging' Signs of Improvement

TA1810132989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Oct 89 p 7

[Report by Jerusalem economic affairs correspondent Gad Li'or]

[Text] Here are some more encouraging economic figures: The Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday that Israel registered a $60 million surplus in its balance of payments for the first 6 months of 1989.

This is an improvement of approximately 20 percent in the trade balance as compared to the same period in 1988. The deficit in Israel's balance of payments still stands at $1.9 billion. Israel's foreign debt dropped by $150 million, amounting to $17.1 billion as of mid-1989.

These statistics are especially impressive in light of the fact that Israel accumulated a total deficit of $600 million during the same period in 1988.

The marked improvement in the balance of payments became possible thanks to a decline in the imports of goods and services, a 30 percent reduction in security and defense imports, and an increase in overseas grants of approximately 10 percent. These grants totaled $2 billion as opposed to only $1.8 billion in the same period in 1988.

A 10 percent increase in exports also helped reduce the deficit.

On the other hand, there was an 8 percent increase in income from foreign tourism, while Israeli tourism overseas rose by 15 percent.

Israel's foreign debt dropped by $150 million as opposed to a $400 million increase in debt during the same period in 1988. The economy's foreign assets grew by $1.5 billion in the first 6 months of 1989, compared to a $400 million increase during the first 6 months of 1988.

Strassnoff Explains Open-Fire Guidelines

TA1910114089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 89 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Judge Advocate-General Amnon Strassnoff said yesterday that soldiers have been permitted to shoot at masked Palestinian youths in the territories because they are the hard-core activits of the uprising, responsible for assaulting and killing fellow Arabs.

Explaining the expanded open-fire guidelines adopted in late August, Strassnoff said soldiers may now fire live ammunition at the legs of masked youths if they ignore calls to halt and warning shots in the air. He added, however, that "this is not a licence to kill."

There has been a sharp rise in Palestinian fatalities this month, including several masked youths killed by troops. Some observers attribute the increase to the more liberal open-fire orders. Palestinians have charged that the army is pursuing a deliberate policy of killing off the street-leaders of the uprising.

Speaking to reporters covering the territories, Strassnoff said the basic open-fire orders remain the same, but they have now been applied to masked youths because "they have become a serious problem."

"They are the hard core facing the security forces in their war against the uprising," Strassnoff said. "They oil the wheels of the uprising, confiscating ID cards, preventing workers from coming to Israel, physically assaulting people and murdering them... terrorizing the population. Some 125 Arabs have been murdered by Arabs during the uprising."

In response, the IDF has permitted soldiers on seeing a masked youth to open fire if necessary in order to apprehend him, even if he is not involved at that moment in violence, Strassnoff said. "If one of these youths is walking in the street, I don't have to wait until I find two alleged 'collaborators' murdered in that area

the next day," he said. The new directives have been approved by the Justice Ministry.

Strassnoff rejected charges that he had been negligent in prosecuting senior officers for abuses in the territories, while lower-ranking soldiers were court-martialled. He said that in cases of serious abuse for which soldiers have been tried, the responsibility of their superiors is also investigated. He cited cases of two colonels who have been punished by being discharged from the IDF.

Strassnoff said 86 soldiers and officers had been court-martialled during the uprising for offences such as causing death, violating open-fire orders, assault, and damaging property. Another 500 to 600 soldiers have been summoned to disciplinary hearings for less serious offences.

Special emphasis has been placed on investigating incidents in which Palestinian children have been killed, and in 25 percent of these cases charge-sheets have been submitted to military courts, Strassnoff said.

More than 40,000 Palestinians have been arrested during the uprising, including 8,400 held without trial (in administrative detention), according to statistics presented by Strassnoff. About 600 administrative detainees had their detention extended for various periods. Currently, there are 1,889 Palestinians in administrative detention.

About a third of the appeals against administrative detention orders have been accepted, resulting in releases or reduction of prison terms. All told, there are 9,600 prisoners in IDF jails. In addition, 4,000 Palestinian convicts are held in Prisons Service jails.

Asked why two prominent Palestinians—Arab Journalists Association head Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Bir Zayt University Professor Sari Nusaybah—had not been arrested despite allegations in court documents that they were involved in writing leaflets and funding the uprising, Strassnoff said the matter involved "public, extra-legal considerations."

Strassnoff said 78 appeals have been lodged with the military appeals court which began operating in the territories in April. Of the 25 cases heard, 15 defence appeals and seven prosecution appeals have been accepted. Three were rejected.

Bar-Lev on Jerusalem Violence, Law Enforcement

TA1910183389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Report by Shlomo Berger]

[Excerpts] Police Minister Bar-Lev attributes the recent escalation of violence in Jerusalem to directives in the latest uprising leaflets. He said the capital has been quieter since the arrival of police reinforcements earlier this week, but complete quiet is impossible to obtain.

Bar-Lev said there has been progress toward finding those responsible for the spate of car burnings in Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Bar-Lev said certain measures used in the territories to quell the uprising, such as opening fire on masked men who refuse orders to halt, are not applicable in Jerusalem.

[Begin Bar-Lev recording] Jerusalem is not the territories; Jerusalem is sovereign Israel, where the Israeli law is the law that you have to obey. According to the Israeli law, if somebody puts a mask on his face, this is not yet a reason to be fired at. [end recording]

Bar-Lev added that the recent closure of part of East Jerusalem to prevent Palestinian activists from holding a press conference was implemented without his knowledge.

PLO Policy Hardening With Mood in Territories

TA1910161489 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Oct 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Response—A Natural Reaction"]

[Text] The PLO Central Council ended its meetings in Baghdad the day before yesterday by issuing a statement assailing U.S. policy in the Middle East. It is worth noting that there was unanimity in rejecting the proposals of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the five points he put forward to clarify certain aspects of Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In a working paper he presented to the council, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat called on the participants to reject Baker's proposals since they constitute an attempt to circumvent the PLO and the Palestinian initiative, let alone that they support the Shamir plan.

'Arafat affirmed that the members of any Palestinian delegation for dialogue must be chosen by the PLO and gain its approval. Furthermore, any Palestinian-Israeli meeting should be held under UN auspices.

'Arafat's position was welcomed by all Palestinian organizations, particularly the rejectionist left-wing organizations which lately had been attacking 'Arafat as tending to accept the U.S. proposals.

The rigid Palestinian position expressed in the Central Council statement is justifiable. Israel's intransigence, the escalation of extremism in Israel, and the inflexible positions of its government—in addition to the unsteady U.S. position—were elements that pushed the PLO to adopt rigid positions that were a reaction to what is taking place around it. The intifadah inside is continuing, and Israel's practices in the occupied territories are becoming more severe and harsh. This situation is pushing the Palestinian people toward radicalism and extremism. In the not too distant past, our people inside

were pressuring the PLO leadership to adopt "moderate" positions. Even the historic decisions of the Palestine National Council in Algiers were adopted in compliance with the wishes of Palestinian public opinion inside. The Palestinian people pressured their leaders to give peaceful solutions and dialogue a chance, beginning with the dialogue with Washington and ending with the dialogue with Tel Aviv. Unfortunately, however, these positions were interpreted as the start of a process of Palestinian concessions that would reach the stage of capitulation and acceptance of all Israeli conditions by exerting pressure on the PLO. This pressure has been applied in particular by the U.S., which has been adhering to Israeli viewpoints and trying to "market" them at Palestinian-U.S. talks that have been taking place at Tunis for 1 year.

The Palestinian people inside have begun pursuing a line that contradicts what they had asked of their leadership. While 1 year ago the pressure was directed toward moderation, dialogue, and finding a formula for accomodation with Israel and its ally the United States, today the "response" to the continuing Israeli intransigence and the indifferent U.S. stance toward it is represented by the rejection of Shamir's plan and the U.S. proposals. Once again the PLO endorsed public opinion inside by rejecting what this public opinion had already rejected.

This cohesion between inside and outside is necessary for the adoption of wise decisions that serve the supreme interests of the Palestinian cause as well as for confronting the challenges. There are certain Palestinian principles that cannot be relinquished or yielded. U.S. and Israeli maneuvers will not be able to breach the firm Palestinian front. The inside voice will remain the arbiter regarding all political moves abroad.

Al-'Amlah Brings 'Arafat's 'Message of Peace'

TA1910114489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 89 p 12

[Report by Middle East editor Yehuda Litani]

[Text] Jamil al-'Amlah, the head of the West Bank Village Leagues, confirmed yesterday that he and his predecessor, Mustafa Dudin, had a two-and-a-half hour meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis last month.

The Village Leagues were established in the late 1970s, and were encouraged by the Israeli authorities as an alternative to the PLO, with the aim of achieving peace between the Palestinians in the territories and Israel.

Al-'Amlah said yesterday that, prior to the meeting with 'Arafat on September 20, he and Dudin had met with 'Arafat's advisers, including Akram Haniyah, the deported former editor of the East Jerusalem daily AL-SHA'B.

Al-'Amlah stressed that the meeting took place without the knowledge of the Israeli authorities. He told THE JERUSALEM POST: "I deliver a message of peace from 'Arafat to the Israeli people. He wants to put an end to the bloodshed and solve the conflict by peaceful means. Now, more than ever, I am confident that the PLO is the only representative of the Palestinian people and Yasir 'Arafat is its supreme leader."

New Barracks for Detainees Built at Ansar-3

TA1810115589 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Oct 89 p 6

[Report by Mikhal Qedem and Oren Kohen]

[Excerpt] Two barracks are currently being built in the Ansar-3 detention facility in Qezi'ot. The barracks will be able to hold more than 2,000 detainees. The above was reported by military sources. Blocks five and six are being built close to the four existing blocks. Construction work is expected to be completed in several weeks.

It has been learned that because of the extension of the duration of the administrative detention period from 6 to 12 months, and because of the rise in the number of these administrative detentions, the number of inmates has increased, and it was feared that the existing barracks would not be able to contain them. [passage omitted]

'Large' Detention Facility Planned in Judaea

TA1910052289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] A large, new detention facility will be built in Judaea and Samaria. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the facility will apparently be established in the Teqoa' area in Judaea. The new facility will be capable of housing 1,450 detainees. The decision to build it was made because the other detention facilities in the territories are very crowded.

King Husayn Warns of Nuclear Threat in Region

LD1910171889 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1555 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Report by Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] King Husayn of Joran warned today that nuclear weapons are adding a "new and more dangerous" dimension to the Middle East conflict. King Husayn, in a lecture at Oxford University, said: "It is unacceptable that as the superpowers destroy their intermediate range nuclear missiles Israel develops more advanced intermediate range delivery systems having stockpiled nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

"Nor has this behaviour enhanced the stability of the area. If anything it has forced other countries to seek similar weapon systems.

"This adds a new and more dangerous dimension to the regional arms race, and dramatically raises the potential for destructive conflict."

King Husyan, who was discussing the prospects for peace in the Middle East, said that competition for water was a major contributor to regional tension. Analysts had accurately predicted for decades that this competition had been a major cause of Arab-Israeli water wars. In the search for a Middle East settlement the "next act of statesmanship" had to come from Israel.

The Israeli Government had lagged behind international consensus, and to a certain extent behind public opinion in Israel itself. He said: "I believe that the peace process has been frustrated by the lack of clarity resulting from Israel's indecision. It may well be of course that we have not fully grasped the extent of Israel's psychological insecurity. But we have tried very hard to allay its concerns in a variety of ways."

He said that successive Arab summits in the last decade or so had sought to assure Israel of a place in a reconstructed Middle East. He said: "It is now up to the Israelis to muster the courage for an act of statesmanship."

U.S. Ambassador Conveys Message From Baker

JN1910203489 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The United States Administration today expressed its interest in pursuing all efforts in cooperation with the concerned parties in a quest for a formula to give impetus to the Middle East peace process.

The pledge came in a message delivered to the Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir by the American ambassador to Jordan. The message, sent by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, explained Washington's current stand with regard to the Middle East situation and a detailed assessment of the opportunities surrounding peace efforts.

Palestinians Urged To Adhere to Constants

JN1910210689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Oct 89 p 22

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Setting Matters Right"]

[Text] The clamor that accompanied the call for the first direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in the history of the dispute has not been mere nonsense. Instead, the clamor went beyond that, aiming to reverse an orientation against its original purpose, which is to expedite the calling of an international conference after preparations for it are made and the obstacles and difficulties facing it are removed.

Baker's five points came to strip this orientation of its aspired objectives. These points deliberately ignore the essential parties and the basic facts in the region. They also try to separate such a dialogue from the settlement process and its noble objectives, while aiming to confine such a dialogue to deliberations over elections leading to self-rule.

In view of the numerous and diverse Palestinian statements and interpretations regarding this dialogue and its basics, an end must be put to the worrisome interpretations and speculations. These interpretations must stop because Washington's suspect political move is based on the election plan and threatens to besiege the Arab and Palestinian peace initiative and turn back the hands of the clock for a settlement, maintain the status quo, and spare Tel Aviv any price for peace.

Hence, the five Palestinian points declared recently constitute the best response to the U.S.-Israeli points and set matters in their proper and natural place. The dialogue is not an end in itself. It is a preparatory step for an international conference. The dialogue, if it takes place, is to discuss the core of the conflict and the basis for a comprehensive settlement which takes into consideration the rights and interests of all parties. This requires that the permanent member states of the UN Security Council take part in such a dialogue. Naturally, each party should name its delegation without the least intervention from the other party.

With such basic orientations, such a dialogue takes its due course, falls within the context of a comprehensive solution, and becomes necessary for the dispute. Thus, an obstacle would be removed and tangible progress would be possible. Otherwise, no Arab or Palestinian party would be eager to meet with enemies who committed the ugliest crimes throughout the 40-year dispute.

The leading Palestinian bodies, including the PLO Central Council currently meeting in Baghdad, are urged to adhere to these sound, firm, and flexible basics, which fully respond to the prerequisites of international legitimacy and unanimity. They are also urged to adhere to

the legitimate aspirations of those yearning for the establishment of justice and peace in this tense region of the world.

It is hoped that these orientations will receive political Arab support, as they constitute the most accurate embodiment of the Arab peace orientations from the Fes summit to the Casablanca summit. Besides, these orientations bring the special Palestine role and the Arab roles together in looking for the central and primary objective, which is to recover Arab rights and drive the Israeli enemy out of the entire occupied Arab territories.

PLO Rejection of U.S. Plan Criticized

JN1910101489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Oct 89 p 4

[Commentary by P.V. Vivekanand: "Here We Go Again..."]

[Text] The pendulum of the Middle East peace process has swung back to square one once again, this time with the apparent rejection by the Palestinian leadership of American proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks. Regardless of the shortcomings in the U.S. proposal that led to the decision by the Palestine Central Council (PCC) not to take up the offer of talks, another excellent opportunity to call the Israeli bluff has been turned down. If anything, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) did the job for Israel, by absolving the Zionist state of having to take a formal government position on the U.S. proposal. Shamir and company should be feeling relieved.

One of the first questions that come to mind is what did the PLO stand to lose if it was to explore the American offer? Although the U.S. proposal does not mention the PLO by name, and leaves many loose ends over the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the proposed talks, that should not have discouraged the PLO leaders from adopting the minimum action of exploring the idea further and seeking amendments to their liking. Not that such amendments would have materialised for the asking, but it would have acted as a sounding- out board and forced the U.S. administration to adopt certain public postures over its fundamental position in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to draw a bottom line.

There is a multitude of factors that appear to have steered the thinking among PCC members who met in Baghdad Sunday and Monday. It is understandable that any proposal, American, Egyptian, Israeli, Japanese or Fijian, that appears to circumvent the central role of the PLO in the peace process will be rejected outright by the organization's leaders, whether "moderate," "hardline" or "extremist." But, what appears to be lacking among the PLO leaders, more precisely, the leaders of the various factions, is the mutual trust and confidence to arrive at a unified strategy which will allow the organisation to step forward and accept any challenge on a case-by-case basis. Had the Palestinian atmosphere, at least at the level of the decision-makers, been conducive, then the story today would have been different. The PLO leaders would have been in a firm and strong position to take on any proposal from any quarters and examine its pros and cons in a different light, without having to look over everybody's shoulder among themselves.

A closer look at the PLO scenario will indicate that the only element that everyone agrees on is the ultimate goal: an independent Palestinian state. Agreement is lacking on even the modalities of negotiations through an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Surely, the Palestinians do not expect the West Bank and Gaza to be delivered to them on a silver platter. It is elementary that painstaking efforts have to be undertaken to bring about political negotiations. It has to start somewhere. But, every proposal that has been tabled since the PLO switched into moderation has come to a grinding halt before getting anywhere simply because of rejection by one or the other of the two sides to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

In more ways than one, outright Palestinian rejections of ideas floated by other parties, whether American, Egyptian or Israeli, owe their origins to the disarray in the ranks of the PLO leadership. Some might call it democracy at work, but the fact remains that leaders of hardline factions do not trust the mainstream leadership to do a good job resisting "Zionist-imperialist schemes" and are even afraid that the leadership, perhaps out of sheer despair, might "sign on the dotted line" as indicated by the Americans and Israelis.

To be fair, there can be no denial of the possibility that if the PLO were to agree that a non-PLO team, with Israel wielding veto power over its composition, could enter talks with Israeli delegates it could have set a dangerous precedent in diluting the PLO's representative status and, more important, could have led to deep splits between the Palestinians living inside the occupied territories and those in the diaspora. But, the PLO also has the option to call off such dialogue at the first sign of insincerity of the parties sitting across the table.

Furthermore, the feeling appears to be getting stronger among Palestinian ranks that the PLO is being taken for a ride by the Americans through the much-heralded "dialogue" in Tunis. But, if indeed the situation is so, it is incumbent upon the PLO leaders to put a brake on the ride and ask the Americans: "Where are we going?"

Could there be a better opportunity to do so than exploring an American idea and letting the Americans concede that the ride is going nowhere?

There is little doubt that the PLO leadership is betting on the intifada to escalate and push the Israelis further to the wall, generating increased awareness among the Israeli public of the dire need to address the situation. One of the bets is also the possibility that the shaky "national unity" coalition in Israel will break up over the Likud-Labour differences on the peace process. But what

seems to have been overlooked in Baghdad this week is that it was up to the PLO to force the Israeli hand and seek to bring about a Likud-Labour "showdown"; it could only have materialised if the PLO was to pick up the American proposal and throw it back to the Israeli court.

Needless to say, the Israelis were so assured that nothing positive could come out of the Baghdad meeting that they did not feel any need to launch any internal debate of the American proposals simply because they knew very well that the PLO leaders could not agree on the Washington offer and let the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel and the U.S. discuss the next step.

So, where do the Palestinians go from here? Sit back and relax until the next "opportunity" comes along, only to reject it because they can't get their act together? Well, that seems to be the answer, unless of course the PLO leadership turn inwards and build that mutual confidence and trust among themselves to confront every situation with a united voice and strategy. Until then, they will have to put up [with] the ongoing song and dance number over Palestinian representation.

Paper Recommends More Balanced U.S. Policy

JN2010092489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 Oct 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Criticism Associated With Aid"]

[Text] Israel's rejection of the land-for-peace principle and talks with the PLO, recently renewed and stressed by Shamir, is clearly a continuation of Israel's intransigence—one of the fruits of the U.S. bias toward Israel. It is no secret that this bias was and continues to be the main reason for the continuation of this intransigence.

It is therefore difficult to believe that U.S. criticism of Shamir's statements will lead to a U.S. position driving Israel toward moderation so long as this criticism fails to go beyond counterstatements and does not translate into a different performance—halting U.S. military and economic support for Israel, even if partially.

Washington's continued aid to Israel despite its intransigent rejection of peace in the region will never help push the peace process forward. Washington's criticism of Shamir's remarks, also, does not absolve the United States from its responsibility for this degree of Israeli intransigence

In light of this, it becomes clear that U.S. policy, based on strengthening Israel financially and militarily and calming the Arabs through false promises, has not encouraged Israel to accept a just and comprehensive peace, contrary to Washington's claims in defending its policy. Unless Washington has the intention, vision, and ability to change this policy and adopts a more balanced one in its dealings with the Arabs and Israel, Israel will not be motivated to change its aggressive policy and accept the option of peace.

The continuation of this situation would stir the winds of despair in the region. This possibility cannot be ruled out; nor can the grave implications of this be ignored. If the Arabs are concerned that their region not be affected by these dangerous winds—and they have proven this through their acceptance of a just and comprehensive peace—then all peace-loving people must play a firmer role in encouraging the United States to act positively to cause Israel to accept the option of peace.

'Awn Wants Al-Ta'if Deputies To Consult People

NC1910212389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stressed that it is our duty to regain our homeland, sovereignty, and independence. He hoped that the Lebanese deputies at the meeting in al-Ta'if have become convinced that a constructive and useful dialogue can only be conducted under conditions of freedom, in a free land, and by a free people.

In a speech he delivered at a ceremony held by the Army command's guidance directorate, 'Awn added: Anything that is being done or that will be done under different conditions will not see light. He asserted that it was useless to waste time in vituperation, particularly because the dialogue has stooped to a level which makes us ashamed to talk about it any longer.

Gen 'Awn called on the deputies to evaluate what they have done in the past 20 days before resuming the negotiations in the event that they can resume them. He also asked them to adopt a sensible stand and return to their rank and file bases in Lebanon if they respect their bases and their status as representatives of the people.

Gen 'Awn added: Nobody can commit himself to the fate of a homeland if he does not interact with his people. He expressed his belief that the difficult experience the deputies have undergone has convinced them once and for all that there must be no negotiations or reforms under occupation. 'Awn further said: Under occupation, there can only be a capitulationist line to toe and an opportunity to lose a homeland and not regain it.

Ma'luf Comments on Al-Ta'if Conference

NC2010132889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] The council of ministers held its weekly meeting under General Michel 'Awn today. Following the meeting, Minister Edgar Ma'luf said that the council discussed its agenda and the issues being dealt with in al-Ta'if. He said: I do not think that the deputies will abandon their historical responsibilities, especially regarding sovereignty, because they adhere to Lebanon's sovereignty.

Asked for his view on Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to Damascus, Minister Ma'luf expressed hope that the visit was concerned with the homeland's sovereignty and that it will facilitate the [Syrian] withdrawal process.

Palestinian Group Condemns Red Cross Kidnapping

NC1910074089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Michel Defour, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Lebanon, continued his contacts yesterday to seek the release of the two kidnapped Swiss Red Cross employees. He met with Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, and Faruq Abu-al-Lama'. Defour announced that he has no confirmed reports on the fate of the kidnapped workers. He asserted, however, that the Red Cross is continuing its normal work in Lebanon. He added, though, that he has no way of knowing in advance what decisions the ICRC in Geneva might make if the kidnapping takes a turn for worse.

Meanwhile, the Popular Nasirite Organization and Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] have condemned the kidnapping and the misinformation campaign conducted by the abductors. The two sides stressed the importance of Lebanese-Palestinian unity and the need to confront attempts to drive a wedge between struggling Palestinian forces aimed at provoking inter-Palestinian fighting, in which hostile intelligence services would play a primary role.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Visits

Received by Al-Asad

JN1910170789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1215 today Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed to the president a message from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and the president asked him to convey a message in reply.

Talks centered on the Lebanese question, the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee, and the phases covered by the committee.

Meets Al-Asad Second Time

NC1910205889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met in Damascus tonight with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Earlier today, Sa'ud al-Faysal met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for the second time and handed him a message from King Fahd relating to the current meetings in al-Ta'if. It has been learned that the Syrian president handed a reply message to the Saudi minister. The contents of this message have not been disclosed.

AFP reports that Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who accompanied al-Faysal to Syria, has returned to al-Ta'if to brief the Lebanese deputies on the results of the meeting with the Syrian president.

AFP has quoted one of the deputies as saying: We have conveyed to Minister al-Faysal our minimum demands. We cannot accept an agreement that would conflict with our country's sovereignty and we are waiting for an answer.

A Monte Carlo radio correspondent quoted sources close to the conference palace in al-Ta'if as saying that Syria has responded to the efforts to steer Lebanon to safety by securing unanimous Lebanese agreement on the Arab document. One of the deputies has pointed out that Syria might accept the emerging view which calls for stationing Syrian troops deep in the al-Biqa' instead of keeping some of them in the area overlooking the outskirts of Mount Lebanon.

Comments on Talks, Departs

JN2010124789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, left Damascus at 1245 this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Syria.

Seeing him off at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', ranking officials in the Foreign Ministry, the Saudi ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal made a statement to the SANA correspondent. He said: In fact, everyone is working to bring about the success of the delicate and extremely important task of the brother Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if. I conveyed a message within this framework from King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I also held talks with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. All these talks were fruitful.

He concluded his statement by saying: We hope, God willing, that our talks will help prepare the atmosphere and render successful the task of the brother Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if.

Ba'th Official Meets With CPSU Delegation

JN1910154089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Comrade [Vladimir Viktorovich] Grigoriyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting they exchanged views on the ties of cooperation binding the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to the CPSU and the two friendly countries. They also discussed measures pertaining to some aspects of the cooperation program governing relations between the two parties.

Comrade al-Ahmar expressed the depth of the strong friendly ties existing between the two countries and peoples and the common desire to develop and enhance these ties. They also discussed current developments in the two countries and in the Arab arena.

For his part, Comrade Grigoriyev voiced the USSR's admiration of the developments currently going on in Syria and of its role in the region. He also expressed the USSR's eagerness to bolster Syria's strength and support the just struggle being waged to attain a just and honorable solution to the Middle East conflict—a solution that would lay down the foundations for peace, restore the occupied Arab territories to their rightful owners, and ensure the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, especially their right to establish their independent state on their national soil.

Afghanistan

Keshtmand Meets With New Soviet Ambassador

LD1910063889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 18, BAKHTAR—Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] had a courtesy meeting with Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in the Republic of Afghanistan at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers today.

S. Keshtmand expressed gratitude to the all-sided and disinterested economic aids of the Soviet Union rendered under difficult historic conditions to the Republic of Afghanistan. During the meeting the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA hoped for further expansion of the friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and more economic assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan by the Soviet side for meeting the needs of the country caused by the continuation of war by the extremists and their patrons.

Reciprocally, the Soviet ambassador assured the Afghan side that the Soviet side will adopt measures for strengthening and further expansion of friendly traditional relations and good neighbourliness between USSR-RA and rendering assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan for meeting its requirements.

The sides also exchanged views on other issues of mutual interest.

Rebel Missile Attack Leaves 12 Dead in Kabul

LD1910162489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The Pakistani-backed criminal extremists fired six missiles today at residential regions and populated areas of Kabul city, killing or injuring a number of our compatriots.

According to a BIA military section report, the criminal and murdering extremists fired long-range surface-to-surface missiles at residential regions and crowded areas of Kabul city as part of the evil plan of state terrorism by the United States and Pakistan. As a result of this shameless and unforgiveable misdeed, 12 of our innocent compatriots were martyred and another 9 persons, including women and children, were injured. Those injured were quickly taken to hospitals, where they are now under serious and intensive observation. Moreover, as a result of this shocking crime, heavy losses were also inflicted on our compatriots.

AFP Reports on Attack

BK2010004489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1857 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct 19 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels launched a new rocket attack on Kabul and its airport Thursday [19 October], killing 12 civilians and injuring 35, a government spokesman said. Spokesman Mohammed Nabi Amani said eight rockets fell on the city, including three in the airport area, "killing three members of one family."

Nine other people were killed elsewhere in the capital after five rockets fell on the old quarter and a residential area where government officials are housed with their families, Mr. Amani said. "All the victims were civilians," he added.

Witnesses at the airport, which is both for civilian and military use, gave accounts of more rockets falling around the airport, one airline official saying he saw "at least five rockets." Three flights were cancelled and others were delayed, an independent source said.

Mr. Amani said a construction firm specializing in prefabricated materials was seriously damaged near the airport. The rockets were fired by mujahidin guerrillas in the Pagman Mountains to the west of Kabul, he said. A soldier based at the airport said that some rockets fell "on the military side (of the airport), and one at the end of the runway."

The last deadly rocket attack on Kabul was October 10, when a rocket demolished a bus station, killing 38 people and injuring 83, according to the official toll, in the middle of the city less than 500 meters (1,500 feet) from the presidential palace.

Mr. Amani also said that military operations had intensified near Khowst and southeastern Jalalabad. He accused Pakistan, which supports the Afghan resistance along with the United States, of having used its artillery against government positions near Khowst about 30 kilometers (18 miles) from the Pakistan border. Saying that the attack claimed the lives of government officials, he added that the Afghan Army had used not only artillery but also aircraft to bomb "concentrations" of guerrillas and arms depots that the mujahidin were planning to draw on for new attacks in Khowst and Jalalabad.

He said that the area of Samarkhel, which is occupied by government forces not far from Jalalabad, Afghanistan's third-largest city, was pillaged by mujahidin "over the last 48 hours."

(At least seven people were killed and more than 30 wounded Thursday when a Soviet-made SCUD missile fired by Kabul troops landed in an Afghan village close to the Pakistan border, hospital sources in northern Pakistan said.

(Reports reaching the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar said victims were mostly Afghan refugees or mujahidin guerrillas travelling to Afghanistan's Paktia Province where government forces were exchanging artillery fire with rebels for control of Khowst.

(Some 20 shops were destroyed and several vehicles were badly damaged as the mid-day missile attack caused widespread destruction, rebels sources said.

(Reports said the long range surface-to-surface SCUD missile fired from a Kabul launching site landed in eastern Afghanistan's Pewar Kotal, only 40 metres (130 feet) from Pakistan's northwestern frontier.

(Seven bodies had been recovered while rescue work continued late Thursday. More than 30 people had been admitted to the Red Cross hospital in Pakistan, the hospital sources said.)

Military Operations Around Khowst Reported

LD1610184989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Hero units and companies of the armed forces stationed in Khowst major district are engaged in consolidating their positions and carrying out their national and patriotic duties with high combat morale.

An authoritive source in the armed forces reported to the BIA military section that in the last 4 days, joint enemy forces, including armed extremists, Saudi Wahhabis and Pakistani militarists have fired heavy weapons onto a number of the security posts of Gardez and Khowst cities, and into the regions of Marghor, Yaqubi, Zazi Maydan, Tanany, and Esmael Khel, as a result of which three personnel of the armed forces were injured. In retaliation to these attacks, the positions of the warmongers were subjected to crushing artillery fire and air strikes, as a result of which 44 enemy forces were killed, and a large number of their arms and ammunition destroyed.

The source adds that the units and companies stationed in Nangarhar Province are mainly working on strengthening and fortifying their defense lines. A number of the units and companies have carried out mopping up and ambush operations in the regions of Bahzid Khel and Kan and Katergay, as a result of which 20 mortar and recoilless gun shells were seized.

The armed extremists, supported by Pakistan, have in the last 4 days fired sporadically with heavy weapons onto a number of the security posts in Jalalabad city and onto Samar Khel, Behsod, and Chaperhar, as a result of which four personnel of the armed forces were injured and two civilians martyred. With the aim of foiling the enemy criminal actions, the enemy positions were subjected to air and artillery strikes, as a result of which 30 warmongers were crushed and a number of mortar and gun shells seized. A number of enemy arms and ammunition depots and transportation means were destroyed.

According to another report, armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis deployed heavy weapons fire onto a number of security posts in Qandahar Province, as a result of which six personnel of the units and companies were injured. In return, blows were inflicted on the enemy positions as a result of which 20 warmongers were crushed, and three strongholds and arms dumps were destroyed. The report adds that as a result of recent mopping-up operations in the Garamsel district, Helmand Province, by the units and companies of the region, 55 armed extremists attached to Pakistan were crushed, and 500 surface-to-surface missiles, 13 arms and ammunition depots, and 8 transportation means destroyed. A large number of light weapons were seized and 15 warmongers were arrested

The report notes that the brave defenders of Zabol recently inflicted crushing blows on the positions of the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis, as a result of which 18 of them were crushed, while two vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

BAKHTAR Reports Military Situation 19 Oct

LD2010064689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] Kabul, Oct. 19, BAKHTAR—In the past three days over 290 enemies were either killed or injured in the grand Khowst district, Paktia Province, and in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar Province, as a result of retaliatory operations conducted by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan in those provinces, reports BAKHTAR military section quoting the authoritative sources of the Armed Forces.

The enemies attacked with heavy weapons on several areas of Paktia Province such as Esmael Khan [as received], Gardeyz, Tani, Yaqubi and Tour Ghor as a result of which six personnel of the Armed Forces were injured, three civilians killed and a residential house was devastated. In reply, the detachments of the Armed Forces in that province resorted to retaliatory operations killing or wounding 113 extremists.

The enemies also attacked with heavy weapons on the security posts of Jalalabad city, Samar Kheyl and Behsud as a result of which two personnel of the Armed Forces were killed, four injured, five civilians were killed and thirteen others wounded. Two mosques were also damaged. In a retaliatory operation by the Afghan Armed Forces, 180 foes were either killed or injured in the said areas.

A large quantity of arms and weapons of the enemy also fell at the hand of the secrity forces in these operations.

According to another report from Qandahar Province, the Armed Forces element in that province carried out some mopping up operations as a result of which a large quantity of the foes' arms and ammunitions fell to the hand of the Armed Forces there.

Kabul Heightens Campaign Against Arab Mujahidin

PM1810144289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 89 pp 1-2

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji, Ahmad Zaydan: "Kabul Regime Steps Up Campaign Against Arab Mujahidin"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah, Peshawar, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Kabul regime has stepped up its campaign against the Arab mujahidin fighting alongside the Afghan mujahidin. An attempt was made to bomb a mosque used by the Arabs supporting the Afghan jihad and residing between Peshawar and Afghanistan. The bombing seems to have been intended to kill the Palestinian Shaykh 'Abdallah 'Azzam, who leads several hundred Arab mujahidin and supervises relief services to the Afghans. Furthermore, at a press conference, the Kabul regime displayed three Arab mujahidin captured during the battles around Afghan cities. [passage omitted]

Sources confirmed that Zafir al-Shahri [a Saudi citizen] was captured in July after the Kabul regime's forces advanced toward Arab mujahidin positions near Jalalabad. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin sources say that there are more than 10 Arab mujahidin POW's in Kabul's prisons, and negotiations are being conducted with the Soviets—not the Kabul regime—with a view to exchanging them for Soviet POW's.

Leading mujahidin representatives support the Arab presence in Afghanistan, where a number of Arabs work among them as teachers, doctors, and mujahidin. They also help to publish Arabic leaflets and magazines on these parties with a view to providing information about the Afghan cause.

According to other sources' estimates, there are 1,000-1,500 Arab mujahidin in most of the Afghan provinces and Peshawar. They work in the Islamic relief organization. In the past many threats were sent to the Arab command in Peshawar and a number of people were the targets of assassination attempts. Resulting from this, Yahya Sanbur, a Saudi mujahid from Jeddah was martyred in an ambush in Pakistan while on his way to Afghanistan 4 years ago. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Government Expresses 'Anguish' Over Strike Call

BK1610162689 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] The government is observing with deep anguish and sorrow that a vested quarter has again given a call for a 48-hour-long strike. This type of strike and hartal [general closure of business] disrupts the economy and brings unnecessary chaos and miseries in public life. An official press note in Dhaka today says there were 59 days of hartal during the last 5 and ½ years. A day-long hartal caused national loss worth about 250 crore taka and, at this rate, the total national loss during the last 5 and ½ years was about 14,750 crore taka. It proves that the frequent hartal is a great menace to the national economy.

The press note says the dimension of the hartal has expanded to such an alarming proportion that the hartals are now being called even at night. As a result, the treatment of the sick and wounded patients is being hampered on one hand and the law and order situation is being created on the other. This provides antisocial elements an opportunity to resort to lawlessness. The people have been disgusted at this indiscriminate call for hartal and strike. They have also become vocal and critical and wanted remedy.

The government has so far shown utmost patience and tolerance in the face of irresponsible and anarchic activities in the name of hartals called by these vested quarters. The government expected that good sense will prevail on them and they will find out alternate language to express their resentment. But, it is a matter of great pity that they have maintained their suicidal and nefarious activities.

The press note says this time the hartal has been called by an organization in the name of some demands for workers and employees. But, the present government has taken many welfare steps to improve the lot of the workers and employees.

The government had recently made an historic and epoch-making announcement on dearness [cost of living] allowance, a special increment, enhancement of pension and gratuity rates. About 600 crore taka will be needed for this purpose. Besides, the present government has recently doubled the pay and allowances of workers and employees in addition to two festival bonuses. There was no bonus system for the government employees in the past. But the present government has arranged two festival bonuses, equivalent to 2 months' salaries to the government employees every year. The government employees have also been given certain special facilities like time-scale, washing allowance, and increased tiffin allowance. Besides, the government has already formed a pay commission to resolve the problems of government employees.

It is needless to say that the substantive privileges and facilities that have been provided to the workers and employees of a poor and developing country like Bangladesh is unparalleled in this region as well as the world. In spite of all this, the vested quarter is making unjustified and impractical demands ignoring the present delicate economic condition of the country. This type of demand will only create hinderances against industrialization of the country and disrupt the national economy.

The press note says, under the circumstances, the government is making a fervent appeal to the conscience of the nation and the people having different opinion to resist these activities which go against the interest of the nation.

A high-level meeting in Dhaka on law and order situation has taken taken certain specific policy decisions for further ensuring peaceful atmosphere in the country. The meeting reiterated that the government is determined to establish the rule of law to protect the life and property of the people. It underscored the need for maintaining peaceful atmosphere to sustain the current development process. Vice President Moudud Ahmed presided over the meeting.

India

Peace Force Contingent Leaves Trincomalee for Home

BK2010091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] A PKF [peacekeeping force] contingent from Amparai District [in Sri Lanka] left Trincomalee for home today by the Indian naval ship "M.V. Akbar." The contingent was seen off at Trincomalee port by the GOC [General Officer Commanding], Trincomalee Division, Major General N.K. Kapur. The next contingent is scheduled to leave Trincomalee on the 25th of this month.

1 Killed, 14 Wounded, Curfew Imposed in Rajasthan

BK2010032989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Oct 89

[Text] In Rajasthan, an indefinite curfew has been clamped on the subdivisional town of Ladnu in Nagaur District following violence in which 1 person was killed 14 were injured. Agency reports quoting official sources report that the situation is now under control.

Opposition to Electronic Voting Machines

BK1910080889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 19 Oct 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 19 (AFP)—India's opposition parties are up in arms against the parliamentary polls going electronic, fearing that the sleek-looking voting machines may have been secretly programmed to defeat them.

Opposition leaders and sympathetic newspapers have warned that the machines, manufactured within the country, may quietly cast the dice in favour of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party.

The autonomous election commission has sought to allay the fears, but the opposition, determined to end Mr. Gandhi's five-year scandal-marred reign in polling next month, is not satisfied.

"All parties should have access to the source code (of the machines), otherwise the government will manipulate them in its favour," opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh said here.

Last week, Mr. Pratap Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party) demonstrated how a computer software can be programmed to rig elections and said voting machines were a ruse to "carry out a 21st century hijacking of democracy" by Mr. Gandhi.

On Wednesday, the Communist Party of India came out against the machines, saying their usage "will be controversial and raise doubts about the fairness of the polls."

The anti-government INDIAN EXPRESS added in an editorial Thursday: "There are ample grounds for believing that such machines are vulnerable to accidents, errors and rigging."

Chief election commissioner R.V.S. Peri Sastri denied Wednesday [18 October] that the voting machines would benefit select candidates, and added that they would be introduced only if all the parties consented.

A senior colleague of Mr. Sastri dubbed the opposition charges as "total humbug."

"They are talking nonsense," said the official, who asked not to be identified. He added that the voting machines were meant to cut down paper work and make polling easy for voters and officials.

Indian parliamentary elections are a mammoth affair. This year they will involve some 555,000 voting centres, thousands of officials, and many thousand tonnes of paper for balloting and counting of votes.

In constituencies where 30 to 40 candidates are battling it out, ballot papers can stretch to a few meters long, requiring both time and patience to fold them to insert them into ballot boxes.

Ballots also require a vast array of items including thread, needles, stamp pads, gunny sacks, and reams of paper.

Most of all, they require endless hours of manual counting of votes and a tiring recounting if one or more candidate makes the demand—which is often the case.

"What we are trying to do is to minimise this mess," said the election commission official. "Politicians only want to find mistakes (rather) than help us out."

The new moulded plastic voting machines are manufactured by two state-run companies and each costs some 300 U.S. dollars. The push-button machines are linked to a control unit manned by officials under the eagle eyes of candidates agents, said S.K. Mendiratta, an under secretary in the commission.

Mr. Mendiratta said the machines were tamper-proof. If a voter presses two buttons or a button more than once, only one vote will be recorded.

"If anyone does play mischief, the control unit will start beeping," he said. But officials say opposition parties are not their only problem now.

The election commission had ordered 75,000 voting machines and control units each, and received 100 by September 15. The entire order—enough to equip 50 constituencies—was to have been met by mid-December, when elections were due. But Mr. Gandhi's cabinet surprised all Tuesday [17 October] by deciding on early polls.

News reports have said that the two state-run companies that make the machines may not be able to meet the commission's demands and that only 35,000 to 40,000 voting machines and control units may be ready in time. Said an official: "With all this hue and cry and problem of deadlines, the (voting) machine may not be used after all."

Prospects for Better Indo-Pakistani Ties Noted

BK1310150389 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Oct 89

[PTI Special Correspondent P.K.V. Iyer commentary: Turning Tide in Indo-Pak Relations]

[Text] Relations between Pakistan and India, which took on a low key over the conflict in Afghanistan and the aggressive military postures on the border and in Siachen, are showing signs for the better following some certain positive developments in the Asian subcontinent. The statement of Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg admitting wrong assessment and mistakes committed by the democratic government of Ms Benazir Bhutto regarding the Siachen glacier, in Jammu and Kashmir bordering China, and the abortive rebel assault on Jalalabad are pointers to a serious reappraisal of Islamabad's policy initiatives. In his interview to JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY, Gen Beg admitted that the reverse suffered by the mujahidin in their abortive assault on Jalalabad was due to a wrong shift in strategy and to the waning U.S. interest in Afghan affairs since the Soviet troop pullout in January this year. Knowledgeable circles in London described Gen Beg's statement as one of surprising candor on a sensitive military issue. Equally interesting was his reference to a halt in the supply of military hardware by Washington to the mujahidin since that time. Gen Beg said the security environment around Pakistan has changed and we are faced with a two-front [as heard] situation, and the military threat does not exist from Afghanistan.

Ms Benazir Bhutto has shown extraordinary keenness in gaining reentry into the Commonwealth. The coming CHOGM [Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting] summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is expected to decide in favor of Pakistan's reentry thanks to the support she received from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the British prime minister, and others.

Another development in favor of increased Indo-Pak relations is the reported remarks of Mrs Nusrat Bhutto, mother of Pakistan's prime minister, denying that her daughter has sought the help of U.S. President, Mr George Bush, in fighting her enemies at home. Mrs Nusrat Bhutto, who leads Pakistan's delegation to the United Nation, told the ASSOCIATED PRESS on Tuesday [10 October] that THE WASHINGTON POST report was stupid, full of lies, and none of it is true.

The stand of the Pakistan prime minister and Gen Beg favoring direct talk between the rebel mujahidin and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan—PDPA—to resolve the Afghan issue goes a long way in reducing the tensions in the subcontinent. Though the conditions that the talk should follow the resignation of Mr Najibullah, the Afghan [word indistinct] will not find favor with the Afghan regime, the changed Pakistani attitude is also seen as a serious rethinking by Islamabad.

The Chinese vice premier, Mr Wu Xueqian, is already in New Delhi for 2 days of official talks on Sino-Indian relations which promise to contribute to easing tension in this area.

Ms Benazir Bhutto has shown her resolve in combatting the ethnic problem in her country as well as the serious drug problem and also concentrate in improving the relations with the neighboring countries. In holding her hand after ordering the arrest of Mr G.M. Syed, the 85-year-old leader of the Jeay Sind movement on Tuesday, Ms Benazir has acted with wisdom. However, she has repeated the charge that the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad party, IJI, of Mr Nawaz Sharif, which heads the government in Pakistani Punjab, was not only supporting the secessionist Sindhu Desh movement but also funding it. The IJI in its concerted attempt to weaken the ruling Pakistani People's Party, PPP, released what it called the secret draft document on the Wular barrage in the Kashmir valley. The document speaks of an attempt by the federal government at a negotiated settlement of differences which have arisen between the two countries over the construction of the barrage. It is interesting to note that the draft document reveals an understanding by Pakistan of the need to make some concessions in allowing India to utilize the waters of the western rivers Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab outside the purview of the Indus water treaty.

Ms Benazir Bhutto, who showed unusual courage in disciplining the Inter-Services Intelligence, ISI, that controlled Pakistan's military initiative under General Ziaul Haq within months of coming to power is expected to show her mettle in resolving the problems at home and improving relations with her neighbor. Given her will, she should succeed where her father Mr Z.A. Bhutto could not.

Technical, Scientific Achievements Irk U.S.

BK1510143589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Answer to Agni"]

[Text] Ranking US officials, of course, never tire of paying insincere tributes to India as a large and vibrant democracy and as an emerging world power, and repeating ad nauseum that the US cares "deeply" about

its relations with India. The treatment meted out to this country, however, does not bear out the protestations. India's inclusion as one of the nine "sensitive" countries, in the company of Israel, South Africa, Pakistan and China, defined either as "Communist-ruled" or suspected of clandestine nuclear weapons programme, and being singled out for "Super 301" trade punishment are but two latest examples of deep suspicion with which the US views India. Further elaboration of the US perceptions of this country has come from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Teresita Schaffer, who has pronounced an arrogant and arbitrary judgment on this country's indigenous nuclear energy and missile programme. India's ambitious missile programme runs "directly counter" to the US policy of controlling the spread of these delivery systems, and the US would deny India technology which might be used to design, test, or produce nuclear-capable missiles, she has said. This is only a post facto justification, since the US had long back blocked export of a major testing system in a bid to prevent the "Agni" [surface-to-surface missile] launch. She had also cast aspersions on India's nuclear programme, terming the country's nuclear reactors and reprocessing plants as "unsafeguarded", and asserting that they were producing unsafeguarded plutonium. She has referred to the 1974 implosion to hint that India was pursuing nuclear weapons programme, and has chosen to ignore that for 15 years India has neither conducted any test nor retracted its solemn commitment. Ms Schaffer is not the first of the US officials who feel peeved about India's independent technological programmes. But she is the first to suggest the two programmes were "difficult roadblocks" to greater Indo-American cooperation, and to tacitly admit that while the US is willing to participate in upgradation of India's armed forces, it is unwilling to see missile technology as part of the country's efforts to augment its security. The apparent contradiction stems from the US perception of itself as the arbiter of others' destinies. It is the global US policies that put Washington at odds with New Delhi. Until that changes, the US relations with India would continue to be uneasy.

Experts Develop Computer Software for LAN

BK1610080489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Indian computer experts have successfully developed for the first time in the country computer software for local area network [LAN]. The software has been developed at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, and is called as the Open Systems Interconnection Network, OSINETS.

Off-Shore Patrol Vessel Launched 16 Oct

BK1610090089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] An off-shore patrol vessel "INS Sarayu" was launched today at Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Built by the state-owned Hindustan Shipyard, the vessel is the second in a series of off-shore patrol vessels being built for the Indian Navy.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister of state for defense production, Mr D.L. Baitha, said these patrol vessels will add to the power, strength, and versatility of the Navy and would be used to defend off-shore installations of Bombay High.

Iran

'Senior Aide' Rules Out Ties With Saudi Arabia

NC2010110489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Oct 89 pp 1, 5

[M. Firuzi report]

[Text] Tehran—A senior aide of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday ruled out any possiblity "for the resumption" of the diplomatic relations with the Saudi regime.

'Alireza Mo'ayyeri, adviser to president on international affairs said, "The situation is not favorable to have relations with the Saudi regime at present."

He was referring to the recent developments including a propaganda offensive by the Saudi media against Iran and execution of 16 Kuwaitis by the regime in Riyadh.

"And moreover," Mo'ayyeri said, "besides these issues including the Hajj we have certain basic differences with Saudi regime." He added that the Saudi rulers are trying to publicize the American brand of Islam through petrodollars while we are trying to propagate genuine Islam based on the Mohammedan school of Islam.

Mo'ayyeri, 33, has worked at various posts before he was appointed an adviser to the president last month. He was charge d'affaires in the Iranian Embassy in Paris in 1984 and deputy prime minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Mr Hoseyn Musavi whose post was abolished according to the revised Constitution.

"Well you know that it's our utmost wish to attend the Hajj ceremonies this year but for the time being there is no possibility for any mediation between Tehran and Riyadh," he responded to a question of the TEHRAN TIMES that whether there is a possibility that mediation may succeed through certain members of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

The (P) GCC summit meeting is due in Oman this year and there are reports in the media that certain countries are trying to mediate between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"No the time is not ripe for mediation," Mo'ayyeri said.

On the ties with France he said both the countries are ready to start bilateral relations in all fields. He said that the two countries have agreed to hold talks on reciprocal issues monthly at deputy foreign minister level.

French First Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Scheer who arrived here last month held a series of talks with his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi in Tehran. According to the reports Va'ezi is due to go to Paris for further talks between the two countries.

Mo'ayyeri said that France has already paid $630 million to Iran but still $370 million plus interest are due to be paid by that country.

"We proposed to the French authorities who also agreed that the financial dispute should be solved first before taking any steps for better relations between Tehran and Paris.

Commenting on the progress of Security Council Resolution 598, Mo'ayyeri said, "Iraq creates hurdles and proposed everything other than from the resolution."

"We always welcome the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's missions and still are ready to accept his mission headed by his deputy Jan Eliasson," he said.

"Iraq wants to weaken the 1975 Algeria Accords through lame excuses but the Baghdad regime should note that it will have its own impact on all the international agreements," he said.

Mo'ayyeri said that the Iraqi regime in the name of POWs is making hue and cry which is nothing but to exploit these prisoners of war.

Kuwaiti Silence on Executions Criticized

PM1710140689 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Sep 89 p 20

[Commentary by Amid Mas'udi: "Saudi Provocations and Kuwait's Meaningful Silence"]

[Text] The torture and execution of 16 Kuwaiti pilgrims in Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti Government's silence in this connection have raised a number of questions.

There was a news item which indicated that the relatives of the 16 Muslim pilgrims from Kuwait who were martyred by the Saudi regime last week, staged a protest sit-in in front of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There have also been marches by tens of thousands of Pakistanis and Lebanese in protest against the beheading of the 16 pilgrims.

The beheading of Kuwaiti pilgrims after inflicting medieval torture on them, to get false confessions on Iran's involvement in the Mecca bombing incident, occured as a first step toward confirming the fact that the rulers of the Hijaz are not capable, nor are they worthy of being custodians of the two holy mosques. It proved that the management of the pilgrims to the house of God should be in the hands of people who are capable.

The indecent murder of the pilgrims came at a time when Iran and Kuwait entered a new phase of good relations. The government of Hijaz, which in addition to being completely dependent on the United States, also has the dream of becoming the boss of Persian Gulf countries, cannot be witness to improved relations between the Islamic Republic and other regional countries.

Another element which had a hand in pushing the al-Saud to stage the latest show, was Kuwait's views on Arab issues, including the question of Palestine.

Some analysts believe that prior to the execution of the 16 Muslim Kuwaitis, the Saudi Government, in a secret agreement with the Government of Kuwait, quietly freed one of the accused, who at one time served as a member in the Kuwaiti parliament, along with eight other people. The execution of the remaining 16 was accomplished according to an agreement reached between the two governments. In any case, if such an agreement did exist, it would have been natural for the Hijaz government to postpone the executions or at least not make its crime public.

The publication of comments made by one of the accused regarding the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait being involved in the bombing incident in Mecca comes at a time when Kuwait has chosen a sensible path in its foreign policy to improve ties with the Islamic Republic, thereby opening a new opportunity for peace and stability in the region. Although Saudi provocations and propaganda will not affect the good ties between Kuwait and progressive countries in the area such as Iran, the question still remains as to why the Kuwaiti Government has remained silent in the face of actions taken by the government in Hijaz? Will this silence not prepare the ground for the next crime by the al-Saud?

New Envoy to Kuwait Urges Amir To Expand Ties

LD1810101889 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 18, IRNA—The new Iranian ambassador, Hoseyn Sadeqi presented his credentials to the Kuwait Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah concurrently with the last day of Unity Week and the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him] here today.

Stressing the importance of unity and solidarity among the Muslim nations, Sadeqi expressed hope in the meeting that he could take positive steps towards expansion of Tehran-Kuwait ties.

In reply, Shaykh Jabir referred to the historical background in mutual relations as well as the current ground for bilateral ties and said the two countries should work for a better future with good intention.

President Wants Public Role in Development Plans

LD1910182989 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov, Oct 19, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has called on officials in east Azarbayjan Province of Iran to "create a reformation for making good on the deprivations" in this province.

Rafsanjani who was talking at a session of the provincial council here Wednesday evening also emphasized on the need for "creating a substantial reformation in the culture of the people," and called the provincial officials to try to better involve the people in development and economic investment in the province.

The governor general of the east Azarbayjan province, M. Parhizkar, requested more government aid for solving the problems of the province especially in the area of road building and public education.

He said more than 1,000 villages in the province suffer from the lack of public education facilities.

During his tour of the province, President Rafsanjani on Wednesday also inspected a tractor manufacturing plant in Tabriz. The plant is now under an expansion project which upon completion by mid-1990 will produce 30,000 tractors annually.

President Rafsanjani has been in east Azarbayjan province since Wednesday.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Visits Border Province

LD1910181189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Urumyeh tonight, following a 2-day visit to Tabriz. He was welcomed at the airport by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasani, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and the Friday imam of Urumyeh; the governor general of west Azarbayjan; and local officials.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, this is your first formal visit to the reigon, and it shows your particular attention to the people of this region. Please tell our people the reasons for your visit.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We would need a reason if we had not come. Now, I'm here. It is obvious that I have to visit provinces and ask how the people and the officials get on, and it is among my obligations to see how things are done. But here we are in our sensitive border province, where the people of the region showed praiseworthy resistance and bravery during the war. It was my pleasure to be able to arrange the visit to thank the people and also see the problems of the people and the officials, because this is a sensitive region. From the point of view of border issues, we should see what should be done here.

[Correspondent] Mr President, when will the government announce its policy and the new program for exchange transactions to fight inflation and profiteering?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The plan is ready, and it will be announced very soon. We decided to begin the work with the currency, because the soaring currency rates have negative effects on the prices of goods. First, we will bring the currency to a rational value and, while doing this, we will make our production centers more active and increase the level of production. The second stage is the expansion of the support by the government for production units, through foreign exchange allocations.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

The president then, while replying to the pure emotions of the villagers who had gathered on both sides of the 10 km road to the city, despite the rain, arrived in Urumyeh and at the entrance to the city was warmly welcomed by the people of Urumyeh.

Daily Sees Signs of Improved French Ties

LD1610062589 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 16 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 16, IRNA—Improvement in the diplomatic relationship between Iran and France will contribute greatly to the stability of the Middle East region, said the editorial of the English daily TEHRAN TIMES Monday.

Commenting on signs of a thaw in relations between Tehran and Paris, the English daily noted that in the light of past experience, Iranian foreign policy makers must take certain precautions.

"France in the first place should do all it must to steer clear of infringing on the sensitivities of the Muslims and avoid anything that can recreate tensions," it pointed out.

Moreover, the daily added, France should try not to delay the settlement of the final payment of the one billion dollars due to Tehran from the Eurodif company.

"As for the Islamic Republic, it has always emphasized on the friendly relations with other countries, provided those countries would accept the Islamic revolution as a historical fact and do not pursue ways and means of weakening it."

It ruled out the possibility that the Islamic revolution would ever step over its fundamental principles and stressed that from political point of view, it rejects "being oppressor or oppressed."

"This irrevocable principle is the motto of our foreign policy," the editorial underlined.

In this regard, TEHRAN TIMES concluded, countries who do not have any animosity toward Iran can enjoy the fruits of a healthy relationship with the Islamic

Republic, and they should face no problem in the way of upgrading economic, cultural, and commercial contacts with it.

Daily on Turkish Leader's 'Political Mistake'

LD1710061189 Tehran IRNA in English 0607 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 17, IRNA—The TEHRAN TIMES Tuesday expressed regret that Tehran-Ankara ties had deteriorated during the past four months.

The daily criticised the Turkish press for attacking Iran, and said they had gone "to the extent of insulting the sanctities of the Iranian people."

Turning to the change in the attitude of Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal, the English daily said he was "making a political mistake—one that is surprising for a mature statesman—to put personal and party interests above the larger interests of his nation."

The daily mentioned Ozal's candidacy for the Turkish presidential elections set for October 20 as a reason behind the change in his attitude.

"So he has no option but to go along with the Turkish press and endorse the propaganda that it puts out," said the morning daily.

It recommended Ozal that following "the popular line set by the Turkish press" would be to his advantage in the short term but not in the long run.

Pakistani, Iranian Air Force Commanders Meet

LD1910130789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] This morning, the commander of the Pakistani Air Force, who is currently in Tehran, visited the immaculate tome of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be admitted to paradise. He paid his respects to the great leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution by offering branches of flowers at the tomb.

According to the Central News Unit, the Pakistani Air Force commander also met Brigadier General Sattari, the commander of the IRI Air Force at Air Force Command Headquarters this morning. At the meeting, the two exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and stressed the need for expanded cooperation between the two countries in technical and training fields.

Navy Commander Outlines Development Plans

PM1810155389 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Sep 89 p 16

[Unattributed interview with Commodore Malekzadegan, commander of the Iranian Navy; date, place not specified]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [KEYHAN] One year has passed since the cease-fire in the Iraqi war against Iran. During this time, what action has the Navy taken toward safeguarding readiness, expanding and equipping its forces, and strengthening its fighting power?

[Malekzadegan] From the first day of the cease-fire we started to think that we should work in some areas to expand our readiness. The first stage was in the field of equipment. We thought that we should make our forces as ready as possible, although they were ready anyway. With the efforts of the dedicated personnel we reached such a level of readiness that even minor problems in some of the frigates, helicopters, and hovercraft were resolved and readiness was improved.

For example, during the war there was no time to spend on increasing the speed of our frigates. We have seen to that. Moreover, because of the war there were some issues that took second or third priority: We have dealt with those as well. Last April you saw in the Zolfaqar-3 maneuvers, carried out in the presence of our respected president, that the increase in the navy's effectiveness was quite obvious. We brought in the highest number of frigates and we undertook those major exercises. This was made possible by the reconstruction of our forces.

In the field of self-sufficiency, we have worked very well. We have worked on equipment that had to be mounted on our sea-going ships, and we have embarked on some training which we had not managed to accomplish because of the war. Since the war we have managed to establish some 30 specialized naval courses at our training center. Under a new law, our forces have to receive training in couses which we were not able to organize before. This means that in general we have created changes in the training field.

Regarding programs for the future, we have drawn up plans for what our naval force should look like in 5 years so that the Navy can carry out its important mission. We have prepared the groundwork so that, God willing, we should be in a position to be the absolute power—which of course we are, even now—in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Indian Ocean. We have also made plans to strengthen our warship capacity, and at present we are busy building submarines. This means that the submarine plans are finished, but we shall not stop at that. We have tried to strengthen our warships using the initiative, equipment, and goods manufactured by our own personnel throughout the country.

As I said, at present we are busy building a type of submarine which could be useful to us in the future. We have made some changes in our missile systems which will strengthen our warships. We have enough warships with missile capability. Despite what everyone thought—that we had lost a lot of capacity in the war—I must say that 90 percent of this materiel is more ready than before. We are strengthening our warships with better missile and radar systems so that we can carry out our mission better. What I mean is that strengthening a

frigate does not depend on increasing its tonnage, because a warship of 5,000 tons can be quite useless if it does not have adequate weaponry, whereas a warship of 200 tons could be more useful than the 5,000-ton ship. Of course, each has its use. What the destroyer can do cannot be done by a smaller warship. We have enough for our tasks in the Persian Gulf, and we are in the process of equipping ourselves so that, God willing, we should be able to defend ourselves in a better way.

[KEYHAN] You have mentioned three points in your remarks: One was the Navy's future programs; another was the changes that have taken place in the Navy's radar systems; and the third issue was self-sufficiency. Under the present conditions, when there is no war and no peace, I wanted to ask you to give more details about, first of all, the Navy's future programs; then, the equipping of our Navy with electronics weapons systems; and third, our programs regarding self-sufficiency.

[Malekzadegan] Regarding future Navy programs, most of our investment has been in the area of manpower. We want to have a situation whereby the fresh blood injected into the Navy consists of religious, dedicated, hard-working, and trained personnel. We have thought it right to fill and strengthen our training centers with dedicated and experienced personnel and to improve the quality of training, so that the force will be able to fill our future naval needs. I personally believe that, no matter how much equipment we have, if there is no belief alongside the expertise we will not be able to utilize that equipment, which will in effect be like scrap metal. That metal can either become a huge defensive dam, or it can be scrap metal. It is the personnel who turn that scrap metal into a defensive dam.

It is the men who can turn the weapons into a defensive dam. It is the men who by their efforts can make their frigate ready, fight better with their weapons, use them well, and stand well against the enemy. Even if we put the best ships, helicopters, and hovercraft at the disposal of our personnel, if they do not have fighting spirit, belief, and dedication they will not be able to use the equipment well. This is why we have to make this our focus and strengthen our training centers. The personnel who enter our training centers must first of all be from a group which has adequate religious belief—then they can come and get the training they need. This is why we have made a tremendous change in our training centers.

We are at present rebuilding our manpower. Equipment is always available. If, God forbid, we cannot make it ourselves, we can always get it from somewhere. But if we have the equipment and we do not have the dedicated and experienced personnel to use it, that machinery is useless.

Regarding the manufacture of equipment, we are making plans alongside other concerns. Some projects are in the hands of the self-sufficiency mobilization team. Just a few days ago a project relating to an early-warning system came to fruition. We have never had this before. We tested it using our ships and aircraft and we got positive results. If this machinery is mounted on our platforms, it will be a good system. It can tell our men what is happening out at sea at great, great distances, what threats there are, and what the potential aggressor is going to do next. We did not have such a system before, but as a result of non-stop work for 2 years by our brothers at the military industrial center and our own personnel, this project has produced results. This is a major success for us.

We have other projects which are gradually being completed. Some are 80-percent complete, and some are already complete and we are using them at the moment. We have a system called chaff that throws enemy missiles off-course, which was built earlier and is now installed on our ships. We put it to good use during the war. there is another project which I will announce once it has been completed.

There are many projects, including the manufacture of a submarine, a frigate, a small warship for training purposes, and better radar systems, plus changes in our missile systems.

One of our success stories was the reconstruction of the destroyer "Sabalan." You are aware that the "Sabalan" was very badly damaged during our war with the aggressive and world-engulfing United States. I can say that a large part of the destroyer was demolished—the part that was the spine and the backbone of the ship. I am sure that the U.S. ship involved in the clash did not sustain as much damage as the "Sabalan," the Americans withdrew it from the scene. This means that, even with all their technology and equipment, they could not repair it.

This was the situation of our "Sabalan." Our men really tried very hard to tow the "Sabalan" back to port. I was there myself when the men towed in that ship, which was cut in two, with one section missing. It was really a miracle, and nothing but God's will. No human could have thought of a way to bring that ship into dock. I think it was some other force that brought the ship into dock. We took it into the dock the very same night. If you see this destroyer today, you will see that the impossible has been achieved with the Muslim children of this nation in the navy. I tell you here and now that the repair work on this destroyer was much harder than building a warship from scratch.

At the moment, some 70 percent of the construction work on the Sabalan is done. There is still some work to be done on the inside. It was a huge task that cannot be compared with anything else and is really more difficult than building a frigate. I can honestly say that we have built the "Sabalan."

With the workshop that we made there to repair the "Sabalan," we can make frigates.

God willing, once the repairs on the "Sabalan" are finished, we shall start work on building a destroyer—something which has never been done in this country. I

do not beleive that any of the neighboring countries or even nations further away can make a destroyer like the one we have the power to build now.

We have also strengthened ourselves in terms of weapons. The defense indusrtries have helped us greatly toward the goal of self-sufficiency. We are in the midst of some projects whose results we shall announce to the public in the near future. For example, we have taken a naval system and turned it into an air-naval system, or we have taken a submarine system and turned it into a surface system. God wiling, this is something that we shall explore further in the future.

Since we are aware that the war of the future is one of electronics, our children have a great deal invested in this area. The reconstruction of the radar systems on the warships and the increasing of their capabilities has proved a great achievement, and it is now completed. The area of search systems, electronic surveillance, and in general the monitoring of different frequencies at sea is one in which the brothers have had success. They have either repaired or else upgraded the existing systems. I can say that, out of around 30 projects that we have in hand, some 10 of them have to do with electronic warfare, and they are all coming to an end one by one. We took some things from the Americans during the war in search and rescue missions, and we have used them. In general we have made good progress in terms of diverting enemy missiles and giving false echoes to the enemy regarding our position.

[KEYHAN] Our next question has to do with the position of the Iranian Navy in the Persian Gulf and the situation of the foreign fleets there. Could you please give some details on this?

[Malekzadegan] I want to tell you that there has been no change in our goal of an extended Iranian naval presence in the Persian Gulf since the acceptance of Resolution 598. It could even be said that our sphere of activities has increased quite a lot compared to the period before. We have to have more of a presence in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to get a good picture of the area, so that if there is an incident we can deal with it quickly. We have search missions and regular patrols. Perhaps in the war we focused our actions on the Strait of Hormuz, whereas now we also have a presence in the Gulf of Oman and pursue activities there.

In terms of air patrols, we get help from the Air Force, but we have also organized some missions ourselves, using our own men. We have been able to make our air-sea units more active, so that we have perhaps the same control of the seas as before. We have knowledge of every movement the foreign ships make, especially those belonging to the United States. If you see our daily reports now you will see that the U.S. fleet is there, with numbers and names, and the ships' headings, speeds, and even weapons and programs are known to us. This is our view of the sea. We have a complete picture of the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Strait of Hormuz.

Of course, we increase our readiness by staging maneuvers. The maneuver that we are going to state in the winter is the second major one this year. Every year we have managed to hold one exercise, but this year we are going to have two. We may even be able to do three by the end of the year. These actions and exercises increase our readiness and our strength. We also get to test ourselves and our systems. In terms of training, we have mixed our war experience with theory, so that the quality can be improved. We have devised programs for our commandos and marines, and at the moment we are involving more marines in training so that we can use them more on our islands and in our ports. In any event, we are trying to increase our capability in all fields, and so far we have achieved good results.

[KEYHAN] You have placed great stress on increasing the quality of training. You have previously announced that the Navy is prepared to teach students from other countries at our training centers. I want to ask you if there are, at present, any foreign students at our training centers?

[Malekzadegan] Various groups have come and looked at our training centers. We have announced our willingness to friendly countries. There was recently a team from North Korea. They went and visited some of our centers and they were amazed that, during the 8 or 9 years since the revolution, we have been able to create such centers. They were very eager to come and see what we teach in these centers and what we do, because we have gained much valuable experience during the war—which is something they do not have. We present one aspect of this experience in our training centers, which is very interesting and is something that others do not have. Teams from India and Pakistan have come for visits, and they have said that they are ready to send students and we have agreed. It now depends on the general policies of the countries concerned when the students will be accepted and what our bilateral relations with those countries will be like.

In any case, as far as the Navy is concerned, any time our regime gives us students from other friendly countries to train, we are ready to train them in all fields—either in our officers' school and at headquarters, or else at our university compound in Nowshahr, which is one of the best training centers in this region. This is because there we award postgraduate degrees which are accepted throughout the country. We train students from other areas such as the merchant navy, port authorities, the Ministry of Petroleum, and even the Air Force. Some of our graduates have met foreigners in the course of their jobs, where there are foreigners, and there was a German officer who was amazed at the work of an Iranian graduate. He had asked if this country had graduate officers of that quality, if that was possible. The same German officer said that in his country, which has 100

years' experience of naval training, he had never seen such love, discipline, and quality in an officer.

This was one of the revolution's biggest achievements affecting the Navy. In terms of training, our Navy has become 100 percent self-sufficient. You see, before the revolution the United States was supposed to have built a naval college for us; now we have reached a stage at which we are training ourselves.

[KEYHAN] You mentioned something in your remarks about the major maneuver to be held in the coming November or December. Could you please give some details about this exercise? Could you also talk about the progress made toward utilizing the case at Chahbahar and say when this will come into use?

[Malekzadegan] Regarding your first question, the exercise will have five or six stages during which we shall train in night warfare, electronic warfare, and other types of warfare at sea. The main focus will be on amphibious operations, whereby we would attempt to stage a landing on a supposed enemy coasts. Or else we could have operations whereby we would take back from the supposed enemy islands or ports that it had taken over.

During the first stage of the exercise the systems will be checked. The next stage will be the training of all units involved, and the next stages will follow from there. It will be a show of force. God willing, we shall be able to show that, during this period in which the war has subsided somewhat, we have managed to improve the quality of our training and of our warships, helicopters, planes, and manpower.

Regarding your second question, as you know our borders do not end at Bandar 'Abbas. We have hundreds of kilometers of maritime borders stretching into the Gulf of Oman, and these have to be safeguarded. In general we have reached the conclusion that, if we were going to defend the Islamic Republic of Iran's interests in full in the Gulf of Oman, the base at Chahbahar had to be stronger than the one at Bandar 'Abbas, that it had to become a really strong military base. That area has to be made ready quickly, and a lot of activity is under way in this regard. Several sections are ready. God willing, and with the help of other branches of the Armed Forces, if we get the budget, and if other issues are solved, we shall be able to make that area ready quickly.

We would very much like to see that area rapidly developed because it is vital. I say now that, if we do not have this base soon, it is possible that we may lose several other things at one time or another. Of course, the issue has been approved and the Supreme Defense Council has stressed it, and before Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani resigned from his position as commander in chief of the Armed Forces I talked to him about Chahbahar and he stressed that this base should be made ready as soon as possible. God willing, and with the help of other loved ones, we shall be able to make the place ready very quickly. It needs some equipment, and if we get the money we will be able to make it ready. [passage omitted]

Air Force Official Comments on Building Planes

PM1710134889 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] On the occasion of holy defense week, the commander of the center for repair and storage of aircraft, which is part of the logistics command of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, took part in an interview with our correspondent. He discussed current and future plans in the area of self-sufficiency in the aircraft manufacturing industries.

He started the interview by talking about the special situation of the Air Force before the revolution. He said: Up until the success of the revolution, all things dealing with repairs, backup, and training connected with airplanes and the backup systems for them, were done abroad. With the revolution, led by Imam Khomeyni—may God expedite his passage to paradise—all this was stopped. This meant that personnel were no longer sent abroad and foreign advisors were no longer accepted in.

Following the downfall of the shah's regime, the personnel who were never before allowed to even touch the equipment, started to repair and maintain the equipment which had cost us billions of dollars. In this manner, they prevented millions of dollars more from leaving the country. At present, all parts are repaired or replaced by Iranian technicians and there have been new things in some areas. Our brothers have done a great deal of work on the repair, renovation, and manufacture of parts, because after the war and because of economic sanctions, there were problems obtaining necessary parts and systems. If the necessary parts could not have been provided, our systems and our aircraft would have been useless.

Our Muslim nation, and even those who were sitting abroad, were all waiting for the Iranian Air Force and our air defense system to collapse. But instead they saw that we got stronger day by day. They saw that not only were our systems not taken out of action, but rather they were put back into service.

Regarding the same subject he added: We had some aircraft called T-33's which before the revolution, during 1975 and 1976, were taken out of service because of colonialist reasons, even though they were very good planes and there was nothing wrong with them. But because they had taken the planes out of service, their systems were no longer supported and their spares were no longer made. As a result of actions taken over recent months, these planes are once again capable of being airborne and in the not too distant future, we shall see the planes flying again.

In connection with the manufacture of aircraft in the Iranian Air Force, he said: One of the things done with

the help of the current Air Force command, was an effort to build airplanes. I myself was the manager of the unit involved in this and with the help of God we managed to undertake that task. We made the Parastu airplane and we flew it. At the moment, this plane is on the production line and during the next few months, several of these aircraft which have been built, will be made available. Its production line is now ready to make airplanes. Currently all the moulds and all the parts for the manufacture of this plane have been made and are ready for mass production and delivery to any part of the country where officials see the need.

The commander of the repair and storage center of aircraft, which is linked to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force, concluded by commenting on the manufacture of another type of aircraft in the country. He said: In the near future, we shall witness the flight of one of the most modern aircraft in the world and in Iran, which will have been made entirely by us. This has only been made possible by relying on God and the dedication of our personnel. If God is willing, we shall have more success in the future.

Paper Predicts Failure of Al-Ta'if Meeting

LD0510103789 Tehran IRNA in English 1001 GMT 5 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 5, IRNA—A Persian daily said Thursday that it seems unlikely that the al-Ta'if conference would be able to return a relative calm to Lebanon acceptable to all parties involved.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its weekly analysis added that after having sustained 15 years of crushing blows from friends and enemies, the Lebanese nation needed tranquillity.

According to the paper "internal disputes in Lebanon are so deep that could not be solved overnight."

Turning to the gathering of Muslim and Christian Lebanese MPs in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, it said that direct U.S. interference in al-Ta'if conference and its support for the Arab League is clear. This in the long-run would prevent any agreements, it added.

Referring to the gathering of a six-member Islamic and national leaders of Palestine and Lebanon which ended here Wednesday, the daily said presence of ranking authorities simultaneously with the al-Ta'if meet once again showed importance of Iran for Islamic movements.

The six-member committee includes leader of Islamic Tawhid movement of Lebanon Sa'id Sha'ban, member of the Council for Revolutionary Movement of Hizballah Subhi al-Tufayli, leader of Amal Movement Nabih Birri, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party Walid Junblatt, leader of the popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [General Command] Ahmad Jibril and leader of the revolutionary Fatah Abu-Musa [Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha].

Daily Scores Maronites, Al-Ta'if Meeting

LD1510103589 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 15 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 15, IRNA—The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Sunday lashed out at Maronites in Lebanon for their inhuman attitude toward Muslims and said that what they could not get through war, they try to achieve through compromise.

In a reference to the al-Ta'if meeting, the daily's editorial said that the Phalangists and their western supporters have gained nothing from massacre of Muslims in Lebanon and added that the Lebanese people have proved to be highly resistant and ready to sacrifice their lives.

More on al-Ta'if meeting, it said that the Maronites placed their hope on the meeting expecting miracle.

Sixty-two Lebanese Christian and Muslim parliamentarians have gathered in the resort city of al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia to make decisions on the future political structure of Lebanon.

The Maronites wish to turn the course of the meeting to their own direction and in doing so they need the support of the U.S., Britain, France, and certain regional kingdoms.

"The time of one-sided decision-makings by maronites in Lebanon has come to an end," it added.

"The Maronites definitely feel the need for a reform in political and social structure of the system but make utmost efforts to bring such changes under their own control and put them off as long as possible," said the editorial.

On the other hand, the paper added, the national and Islamic forces of Lebanon call for infrastructural reforms in the system which would guarantee rights of the majority. They believe this is the only way to bring an end to the present miseries in the war-torn country.

The editorial expressed doubt whether the al-Ta'if meeting, under such conditions, could be successful at all.

It concluded that no success can be achieved in the Lebanese issue without demolishing the sectarian system and putting an end to the Maronite rule.

Column on Economic Independence, Al-Ta'if Meeting

NC1910194289 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 12 Oct 89 pp 1, 2

[From the "Weekly Analysis" column]

[Excerpts] The fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates in the Tehran market were among the important topics of the week. Following the Central Bank's decision to sell foreign exchange directly, the first shock was felt on the exchange market and attracted the attention of many economic analysts.

Unfortunately, the speculation generated by the government's measure and a superficial assessment of it gave the impression that our economy's continued existence is entirely dependent on the foreign exchange market, thereby eclipsing the positive aspects of this measure. [passage omitted]

No one can dispute that our industries are affected by fluctuations in the foreign exchange rates or deny the direct link of the rial with foreign currencies, but unfortunately the attempts in past years to minimize such dependence seem to have been forgotten in erroneous propagandistic policies.

We announce the budgets of large factories or the level of imports and exports in terms of dollars. This is a source of great shame for a country that prides itself on its economic independence. Our unit of currency is the rial and those involved in economic matters should know that when budgets are approved in terms of dollars, it is a sort of acknowledgment of the instability of the rial. This has a psychological impact which has generated negative trends which affect the market. Radio, television, and newspapers, as well as our higher echelons, should take note of this and use the rial as the standard, thus displaying our independence. [passage omitted]

Measures implemented in a day or over the short term will not have much effect in the long term. Chopping off a few branches from an ailing tree is not a cure. It is necessary to reiterate the point that our unit of currency is the rial, the most oppressed unit of currency of the most oppressed nation of the world and the two should not be separated!

Al-Ta'if and the Future of Lebanon

The al-Ta'if conference continues to make headlines around the world. The meeting of 62 Lebanese parliamentarians in al-Ta'if is in itself an indication of future developments. The direct intervention by the United States, Great Britain, and France in the decisions at al-Ta'if is an overt sign that one cannot be confident that the future of Lebanon will be decided according to the wishes of the majority. [passage omitted] If instead of all these behind-the-scene activities, a step had been taken for the benefit of the majority of the Lebanese people, the al-Ta'if conference would not have reached its present impasse.

Editorial on New Social, Economic Measures

NC1910185589 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Oct 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial by Ahmad Tavakkoli: "A New Dynamism"]

[Excerpts] After some time and considerable anticipation, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government has finally begun taking social and economic measures. Some very positive points, which have raised hopes for greater changes later, can be seen in the government's approach. The president's swift action on questions of bringing in personal goods and the relaxation of certain customs regulations without harming the government's interests, the new policies for the entry and exit of foreign exchange and its sale at rates competitive with the open market, the tackling of the great differences in prices for consumer goods such as potatoes, onions, and grains, as well the completion of the revised 5-year plan are among the measures that have inspired optimism. [passage omitted]

Even though these measures may encounter difficulties, the important point is that these problems were tackled in a timely fashion and the action taken was swift. This has served to inspire confidence among the people in the government's ability and resolution. [passage omitted].

The direct and indirect support of the masses of the people and of the oppressed stratum is another characteristic of the latest measures. The reduction in the prices of consumer goods and the far-reaching rectification of various erroneous policies, which will result in smoother operations and increased production and output, are preliminary measures which should be taken to ameliorate the lot of the common man and to eliminate the problems of the people in general.

However, a mobilization of the people's forces to implement certain policies is something new. In this regard, the positive action by the Commerce Ministry deserves honorable mention. The ministry assigned some ethical and trustworthy forces in the bazaar to implement the reduction of potato and onion prices and thus removed a major burden of responsibility from the government's shoulders. The last point that should be mentioned in this remedying of the situation was that priorities were allocated to certain systems and policies. Obviously, the correction of the modus operandi in offices and government departments will eliminate most of the opportunities for malpractice in the public and private sectors by parasitical elements, and will also give the judiciary the chance to deal severely with those unscrupulous elements who seek to capitalize on every situation for their own benefit. [passage omitted]

Foreign Currency Developments Viewed

NC1710185789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly in English 12 Oct 89 pp 1, 14

[Text] Tehran—A senior bank official believes that the government's plan to break the black market in foreign currency is bound to succeed.

Central Bank of Iran official, in charge of international affairs, Mohammad Ja'far Mojarrad said, "Well, you know that we have chalked out all the plans to counter the black market and the plan will definitely go ahead."

He was commenting on the newly introduced exchange rate by the government to break the country's black market which is popularly known in Iran as "Bazar-e Azad" or the "open market."

President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday said that the Iranian industrial units can buy any amount of foreign exchange at the new competitive or rival rate which in Persian is called "Nirkh-e Reqabati."

The Bank-e Tejarat (commercial Bank) from Monday started selling foreign exchange to the industrial units and the so-called open market plunged into chaos and confusion.

The rate of the greenback dropped from Sunday's 1240 rials to 1000 rials and even less on Monday in open markets as the Bank-e Tejarat announced the rate of the American currency a 1000 rials per dollar.

The dollar, however, increased to 1150 rials or around that on Tuesday and yesterday, but according to some reports it was sold at the rate 1130 late yesterday.

The government's policy is aimed at earning cash and encouraging imports of raw materials and other goods which are in short of supply. The policy is also designed to drive down the market exchange rate by increasing the supply of dollars.

The presence of idle cash in the hands of people is one of the main causes for inflation in the country. The cash with the people is estimated at 14 trillion rials which is being rolled around in speculative deals but with no productive activities in the country.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday said that some state-related industries will be able to buy dollars at a "preferential rate" of 600 rials.

Eliminating red tape and providing a quick service for receiving hard currency for imports were the main features of the scheme.

The Central Bank official, Dr Mojarrad in response to a question of the TEHRAN TIMES said, "No, not at all. The history of post-cease-fire acceptance period will never be repeated this time as things are different now."

Iran accepted the cease-fire on August last year and the so-called open market of dollars dived down from 1460 to 600 rials in those days. But the market surged again to its pre-cease-fire acceptance period after some time.

"Well, you know at that time there was no move by the government. It was just a psychological impact on hard currency traders," Dr Mojarrad said.

He said now the dollar has seen a dive because the government has a specific plan and that plan was chalked out after careful consideration taking all aspects and probabilities into mind.

Dr Mojarrad said before the introduction of this scheme we explored a number of avenues to bring the market on its natural course. He said the devaluation of rials was one of the possibilities for which discussions were held at experts level.

"What we want is to put the flow of national wealth in the right direction and for the benefit or the nation," Dr Mojarrad said.

"We are ready to tackle all the probabilities but will never allow the situation to slide back," he said referring to the hard currency's unnatural rate which prevailed for the past several years.

Reports of Financial Settlement With FRG Denied

LD1710171889 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct 17, IRNA—A high ranking official has denied media reports claiming that the Islamic Republic of Iran and West Germany have settled their financial disputes.

Mahdi Navvab, deputy minister of economic and financial affairs told IRNA by telephone Tuesday that only some talks had been held with West German officials on settling financial disputes between companies of the two countries.

Earlier this week, some sections of the media, quoting a Foreign Ministry source, said that the West German 'Hermes Insurance Company' is to provide deutsche marks 300 million in credit for German firms engaged in business transactions in Iran.

However, Navvab did not rule out the likelihood that talks between the two countries might be continued in the future.

Nepal

Japanese Government Tightens Visa Rules

OW1710063189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0604 GMT 17 Oct 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct. 17 KYODO—Nepalese nationals wishing to visit Japan will from next week have to pass an interview before applying for a visa, Japanese Embassy officials in Kathmandu said Tuesday.

The requirement is aimed at curbing racketeering in which Nepalese seeking to go to Japan to obtain work are exploited and used as cheap labor, an official said. "We know the problem lies somewhere else, but we also want to do our bit to control it here," an embassy official said when asked about the racketeering.

Long queues of people lining up to apply for tourist visas have become a familiar sight at the embassy, and the official said it was hard to believe that they could all afford to visit such a highly expensive place as Tokyo as ordinary tourists. Under the new procedure the embassy will try through interviews to find out the true intentions of would-be visitors before issuing them with a visa application form, he said.

Until last Friday, anyone with a confirmed round-trip ticket to Japan and at least 300 U.S. dollars in cash could apply for a visa. But these will no longer be considered sufficient, the official said, referring to rumors that racketeers usually "loan" the cash to the applicant for the purpose of the application. The money must later be returned along with a "service charge."

Pakistan

Kashmir Assembly Resolution on 'Atrocities'

BK1810160389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has urged the United Nations to take note of the atrocities committed by India against the Kashmiri Muslims in Indian-occupied Kashmir. The assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the United Nations to force India into holding a plebiscite in the Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with its relevant resolutions. These UN resolutions have also been accepted by India.

Outcome of Bhutto's Visit to Bangladesh Hailed

BK1810145089 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Enduring Friendship Strengthened"]

[Text] The Prime Minister has described her visit to Bangladesh as "highly successful." At the airport press conference upon her return to Islamabad from Dhaka on Tuesday [3 October], Ms Benazir Bhutto noted that the "unprecedented warm welcome" accorded to the official Pakistan delegation during the three-day state visit reflected the "amity and friendship" between the two countries. She emphasised that her visit to Dhaka was not in the context of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] chairperson's formal round to capitals of the member countries, but a bilateral exchange at the highest level. The Prime Minister also gave out details of the progress achieved during the visit in enhancing mutual cooperation and understanding in various fields.

As for a major outstanding issue of the repatriation of a large number of "Biharis" who opted to retain their Pakistani nationality after the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, the Prime Minister stated that it was a sensitive issue involving not just the two governments but also the two societies. She said that her delegation had discussed the question with Bangladesh officials and hoped that an amicable solution would be found. The joint press statement issued at the conclusion of the visit does not make any direct reference to the question, although it could be included in the general formulation of "other outstanding issues" which the two sides "discussed" and agreed to "resolve expeditiously".

Nevertheless, the fate of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh, who have led a pitiable existence in various refugee camps for 18 long years, is an active and alive political issue within this country. The dilemma for the government is understandable. While certain PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders from Sindh have been vocal in their opposition to settling the stranded Pakistanis in the province; the party's major coalition partner, the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] remains committed to their repatriation. At any rate, the issue is not likely to go away on its own, and demands immediate resolution. The stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh have already paid a price for patriotism much beyond any tolerable duration and extent of suffering.

The only other question between the two countries—and again one whose resolution has been delayed for much too long—is that of division of assets and liabilities. The joint press release notes that the two sides discussed the question and that they agreed to take "early measures for satisfactory resolution of this long-standing issue". As pointed out by the Prime Minister, the question is, no doubt, fairly complicated. But this is an area in which Islamabad can easily go some way in accommodating Bangladesh. Now that we have a fully representative government at Islamabad, such an approach would remove any potential grounds for misunderstanding between the two brotherly countries at any time in the future.

Apart from the finalisation of certain trade and cultural arrangements between Pakistan and Bangladesh, the Prime Minister's visit yielded the clear manifestation of tremendous love and goodwill which our former countrymen today have for Pakistan and its people. That is an asset which would go a long way in ensuring continuity of fraternal relations between the two Muslim South Asian states and also contribute to regional peace and stability.

Paper Calls for Talks Between Kabul, Mujahidin

BK1910065989 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 4 Oct 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Understanding Between Pakistan and the Soviet Union"]

[Text] After detailed talks, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze have reached an understanding on tabling a resolution during the UN General Assembly session in November that calls for a political solution to the Afghan conflict. They have also agreed to discuss the Afghan issue at the session and to get the resolution adopted unanimously.

Although the Pakistani foreign minister has refused to divulge details of the talks with his Soviet counterpart, he has made it clear that he is satisfied with the talks. According to him, the draft resolution is very encouraging, and both countries will officially apprise the UN

Secretary General of the resolution. He said both countries agree that a political solution should be found to this issue and that the path of military action is not right. Of course, differences still exist between the two countries on the strategy of a political solution.

However, irrespective of these steps, a consensus between the two countries for a political solution to the dispute is a significant diplomatic breakthrough. Those who have a through knowledge of this dispute, know full well that military power and confrontation are not solutions to this issue. During the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, certain circles could justify the use of military strength and pressure, but now, after restoration of Afghanistan's nonaligned status, there is no justification at all for the use of military strength. Those who challenge the status Afghanistan's present government will also agree that those at the helm should have links with a political government in Afghanistan and that they be citizens of the same country.

In this context, it is imperative that there should be direct contact and talks between the mujahidin interim government and the Kabul regime, and a broad-based interim government should be formed representing all parties concerned. If the leaders of the Afghan interim government are not flexible in their position and if they are not ready for direct talks with the Kabul regime, the Afghan conflict will continue as ever and millions of Afghan mujahidin will continue to lead a restless life. There is no doubt that before talks with the Kabul regime, the leaders of the Afghan interim government need some protection and we are of the opinion that, anyway, their position should be accepted for the time being. However, without direct talks, the efforts for a solution to the Afghan issue will not bear fruit. The leaders of the Afghan interim government should accept the truth that they cannot achieve their goal through military strength and activities. They themselves are fully aware of the outcome of their military operations carried out since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. Moreover, they should not forget the bitter fact that in view of the changing situation, the powers that were providing military assistance to them have withdrawn their assistance. Their own political benefits and the security of the Afghan people warrant the holding of conciliatory talks as soon as possible. They should bring flexibility in their position in the interest of their country and the people.

End to Center-Province Confrontation Urged

BK1610142689 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Oct 89 pp 4, 5

[Editorial: "Enough Is Enough"]

[Text] The confrontation between the Federal and Punjab governments has lasted much beyond the limits of tolerance and it is time the leadership on both sides called a halt to it. It has not benefited either side, if that was the desired aim. On the contrary it has created circumstances which pose a danger to the wellbeing of the country. It must not be forgotten that Punjab is not only the biggest province, its size also makes it representative of more than half of Pakistan. Thus, the confrontation—if the estranged relationship can be so described—amounts to the nation fighting itself without any purpose.

The few moves that have been made to end this unfortunate situation have been much too weak in intention and aim to have succeeded. The roots of the contradiction are deep, and probably more political than constitutional and administrative. The solution, therefore, should be sought in a political approach, which is not such an impossible thing, seeing that both sides are represented by political parties.

However, the suggestion made by the Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif for a referendum to decide which side is responsible for the confrontation, is a fanciful idea which will do no more than further complicate matters. We are sure the Chief Minister must be aware that a referendum is never held to identify which side is at fault in a political tussle. It is a constitutional device meant for eliciting public opinion on a specific issue of national importance which the government feels requires national consensus. But, if as Mian Nawaz Sharif feels, the people should be allowed to voice their views on such a sensitive question, then it will amount to extending the unfortunate differences between the central and provincial governments to the public itself. This will obviously create severe polarisation among the people on the views they hold, doing no service to national unity and stability. If this is the kind of prescription that is now being offered, we feel that the Punjab IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad] leadership is not serious about finding a solution to the differences with the Centre and prefers to drag them further into the mire of politics.

Fortunately, the Constitution has provisions for dealing with just such a situation, which requires that the issue at stake be referred to the Supreme Court for a declaratory judgement. This is of course a remedy which should be used when all else fails. In the meantime, there is no reason why the leaders of the two sides should not make a determined effort to resolve their differences through dialogue. Such a move should be preceded by a moratorium by both sides on all actions and statements that are likely to exacerbate the confrontation. But, even if such an effort fails, Mian Nawaz Sharif is free to approach the Supreme Court for a resolution.

Sri Lanka

IPKF Withdrawal Coordination Committee Formed

BK1910135689 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 Oct 89

[Text] The coordinating committee has been formed with regard to the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] from the North and the East. The

committee comprises Minister of Foreign Affairs and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne, Chief Minister of the Northeast Province Varadaraja Perumal, Secretary to the Ministry of Defense General Sepala Attygalle and General Officer Commanding of the Indian Peacekeeping Force General Kalkat.

At a specially convened news briefing at the cabinet office yesterday, the minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, said that the committee will bear in mind to avoid any adverse impact on the law and order in the North and East, the ways and means of maintaining the safety and security in the region, securing the civil administration, keeping in mind the recommendations made by the peace committee in the North and the East. The IPKF withdrawal being carried out on area by area basis is now under operation in Ampara.

Mr Wijeratne said that according to General Kalkat the operations there would be completed by the 25th of this month.

The minister pointed out that the Sri Lankan Government would strengthen the 54 police stations in the region to operate at full strength. The inspector general of police will decide on the number of police personnel to be deployed in the region in consultation with the chief minister of the area. He stressed that an ethnic ratio will be maintained in the recruitment, which will also include personnel from the civilian volunteer force.

Minister Wijeratne also said that the DIG [Deputy Inspector General of Police] in the area and the chief minister would be responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the region. The Sri Lankan Armed Forces will not occupy the government institutions in the region but will be located in suitable places allocated by the chief minister of the area. He stressed that no military operation will be carried out in the region unless it is authorized by the president of Sri Lanka and the chief minister. He also stressed that there can be no private army groups anywhere in the country and that the law of the country will always be maintained.

The minister disclosed that the bill was now ready to establish a national police service commission [words indistinct] provincial service commission, which in turn, establishes provincial police services headed by the deputy inspector general of police. This draft bill will be presented in parliament soon and will come into force by next month.

Wijeratne Views Creation of Police Commissions

BK1810104189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, has said that the legislation to create national and provincial police commissions will be introduced in the Sri Lankan Parliament next month. The provincial police force will be formed immediately after the legislation is passed. Speaking to newsmen in Colombo today, Mr Wijeratne said ethnic ratio will be maintained in recruitment of Citizen Voluntary Force in the Northeastern Province. He said the committee consisting of the chief minister of Northeastern Province, defense secretary, and the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] will work out how many men are required in the Citizen Voluntary Force and provincial police.

The minister said the PKF [peacekeeping force] has commenced de-induction from Amparai District from Monday [16 October]. The Sri Lankan police will take over the charge of law and order and will be responsible to the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, he said.

Southern Parties Urged To Resolve Differences

BK1710050589 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 11 Oct 89 p 4

[Editorial: "A Great Victory"]

[Text] In a penetrating and wide-ranging speech before the UNP [United National Party] National Executive Committee, President Premadasa made several salient points which will, doubtless, have a strong impact on the people.

The President, while thanking the police and armed services for their courageous role in containing the violence, went on to warn against, what he termed, "third or fourth forces" who were seeking to exploit the present situation by palming off their own deeds and misdeeds on the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna]. The JVP has made itself vulnerable as a scapegoat by its own record of violence.

Our people are adept at finding alibis for their own wrongdoings. Thus, the JVP is as good as any whipping-boy. This armed development, however, has its warning for those most affected by it.

President Premadasa re-affirmed the government's determination to protect the people. Today, after extended security activity, the people's confidence in our law-enforcement forces has been largely revived; and, with it, their sense of security.

The greatest point he was making, claimed the President, was that this government had been able to bring about a spirit of reconciliation among different—and sometimes hostile—groups in the country.

The President himself, as all the world knows, listened in patience to a plethora of criticisms—much of which was bitter, if not unfair—against his party and the government.

The country has seen his pledge to seek a peaceful solution to the present crisis put to the test. His forbearance has not gone unrewarded.

"One of the greatest victories our people, who are embroiled in a state of violence, had, during the past ten months, is the bringing together of all political parties having diverse policies, ideologies, concepts and actions, to one forum for the sake of finding ways to restore peace in the country. It was no easy task" he declared.

"We consider the All Party Conference as a victory for the people. This is because we have been able to bring to the common forum of the All Party Conference parties which had opposed and criticised us at the last elections".

That is not a claim friend or foe will contest. The peace talks, so far, have been a fruitful and mature exercise. The government's vision in summoning an All Party Conference; its courageous step in declaring a 6-day stoppage of military operations; and the forthright proof it has given of its willingness to go to the greatest possible lengths to secure peace have found heartening acknowledgement on all sides.

Surely, then, the search for peace is not confined to one Party or a section of the people? It challenges the JVP to lay down arms and take its place at the negotiating table. It is a great achievement, and a development of great significance that the disturbances in the north and in the east have been largely checked. Thus, it remains for the parties of the south, and the militants of the south, to resolve their differences as speedily as possible. As the President has warned, there are intermeddlers in our affairs. Any division among our people, then, can only open fresh opportunities to those with ulterior designs of their own on the island.

Our ethnic differences have almost been settled. What reason is there, then, for dragging out other conflicts to which there are obvious political solutions? If the torments in the south arise from economic problems—which many begin to doubt—the campaign of death and destruction is clearly not going to help matters. A more constructive course is necessary. Already, in ten months, the government has created a vast field of employment opportunities.

Before long it will develop a programme, already proceeding, which will provide not one million jobs, but many more, the President declared.

Meanwhile, the Janasaviya [People's Power—a welfare program], which once faced scepticism, is today proving a reality.

The democratic rights of the people and their economic well-being have not been overlooked, despite the turmoil. It is upon that record that the President is seeking the cooperation of every ethnic group; of every political organisation and every militant in the search for lasting peace and progress.